

Traveller with a mission
in blazer
cargo of secrets



Portfolio

There is no weekly £20,000 prize in *The Times* Portfolio competition today because of the Christmas break. However, there is the £2,000 daily prize to be won as usual. Yesterday's £2,000 was won by Mrs Vaidya Hegde, of North Wembley, London. Today's list, page 18; rules and how to play, back page Information Service.

Redundancy rush at shipyards

Union leaders fighting to maintain Britain's shipyards at their present size are reported to be shocked by the response of workers at Swan Hunter's Tyne-side yards to voluntary redundancy requests. The company is likely to have its call for 2,100 redundancies oversubscribed. Page 2

Beirut fury over mother's suicide

The suicide of a Beirut mother distraught over the kidnapping of her 13-year-old son, provoked demonstrations by angry Muslim sympathizers. They blocked Beirut's crossing points and hijacked buses. Page 4

Dalyell answered

A Home Office minister rejected as totally unfounded allegations by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP, that blundering intelligence officers killed an elderly woman earlier this year. Page 2

Diplomatic drug

The Colombian President launched a top-level inquiry after reports that cocaine had been smuggled into Spain in a diplomatic bag. Page 4

Steel deal

The EEC has settled a long-running dispute with the United States over US import curbs on community steel pipes and tubes. Earlier report, page 19

Peckinpah dies

Sani Peckinpah, the American film director known for his vivid depictions of violence in films like *Straw Dogs*, died in Los Angeles aged 59.

Wogan farewell

Terry Wogan said farewell to millions of BBC Radio 2 listeners after 12 years as one of Britain's favourite disc jockeys. Page 3

Kasparov leads

The thirty-sixth game of the world chess championship was adjourned with Garry Kasparov, the challenger, holding a one-pawn advantage. Earlier report, page 4

Argentine anger

Senior Dante Caputo, Argentina's Foreign Minister, has reacted sharply to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas speech to the Falklands, describing it as arrogant. Page 4

Benefits change

Pensions and child benefits are among the most likely candidates for change in the field of personal finance next year. A team of experts give their predictions for 1985. Family Money, page 22, 23

Rally saved

The 1985 Monte Carlo Rally will go ahead after all, as the result of an initiative by the French Federation of Sports Cars. Page 25

Kapil kept out

Kapil Dev, the Indian cricketer, will after all miss the third Test match against England starting in Calcutta on Monday despite pressure on the selectors to restore him. Leader page, 7

Letters: On jobs, from Sir Ian Morrow, and Professor A. Kenway; US defence, from Air Vice-Marshal S W B Mennell; Jane Austen, from Mr T W Mayberry, and Mr L Dunkling. Leading articles: Labour Party; Minto's successor; Chopsticks; Obituary, page 8. Mr Douglas Nicholson, Rt Rev J M Key.

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Gandhi swept back to power with emphatic majority

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

With a barrage of raucous bands and competing batteries of drums, the Congress (Indira) party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi last night celebrated a dramatic victory in the three-day general election.

With over a third of the results declared early this morning, the Prime Minister's party had won 78 per cent of the seats decided. Though this proportion may not persist through the second day's counting, today it seems likely that the forecasts of a very large majority will be fulfilled.

Late last night computer experts on Indian television forecast that Mr Gandhi would end up with a two-thirds majority at least - enough to amend the constitution if he should wish to.

It could even be the biggest victory of any general election since independence. The previous record was held by Mr Gandhi's grandfather, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who won the 1957 election with 75 per cent of the seats (371 of 490).

The Prime Minister took the news of his victories quietly at his home in the centre of New Delhi, and it was announced that he would be reconstructing his Council of Ministers before the turn of the year.

His present council is largely the one he inherited from his mother and he is known to be anxious to present a new team and new image.

Most prominent of the Opposition leaders to fall was Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He used to sit for a Delhi constituency, but

hoping to improve his chances moved to Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

Congress put up Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, the former Maharaja of Gwalior, against him. Mr Scindia had never lost an election in his own principality, whether running as Congress, BJP or independent. He duly won again, part of what was building up to be a clean sweep of all 58 seats in the state.

Mr Chandrababu Naidu, the Janata Party leader, was trailing in the count for his constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Only the 83-

Maharashtra for Janata, and Mr Sharad Pawar, leader of Congress (S), was well ahead.

Also in the east, early returns showed the Communist domination of West Bengal under threat. In 1980 Congress (I) only won four seats; last night it was ahead in 12 of the 24 seats at stake.

Film star candidates all appeared to be doing well. Mr Sunil Dutt, fighting for Congress (I) in Bombay, was more than 100,000 votes ahead.

The bad news for Mr Gandhi came principally from Andhra Pradesh, where Mr N. T. Rama Rao, the veteran film star Chief Minister, seemed likely to repeat the smashing success of the 1983 to the State Assembly.

Mrs Indira Gandhi made virtually a clean sweep of the state in 1980. Last night Mr Rama Rao's Telugu Desam party was leading in 24 of the 40 constituencies where elections could take place.

A number of ministers are likely to be casualties in the state, including the imposing figure of Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Home Minister. However, Mr Narasimha Rao had wisely taken the precaution of fighting a second seat in Maharashtra, which won by a huge margin. Mr P. Shiv Shankar, Energy Minister, and Mr P. Venkata Subbiah, Minister of State in the home ministry, also looked likely losers.

Ministers also lost in the neighbouring state of Karnataka, which has been ruled by a Janata-led coalition since 1983.

STATE OF THE PARTIES	
Total seats to be declared	508
Seats declared	108
Congress (I)	84
Janata Party	4
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1
Bharatiya Janata Party (right)	1
Indian Congress (Socialist)	1
Telugu Desam (regional)	1
Other parties	5
Independents	2

year-old former prime minister, Choudhury Charan Singh, and another former chief minister of the state appeared to be holding on for the Opposition in the state.

In the Prime Minister's own constituency of Amethi late last night he won 76,000 votes ahead of Mrs Menaka Gandhi, his estranged sister-in-law. She said she would petition the courts for a new poll in the constituency, claiming widespread ballot-forgery by Congress (I).

In Orissa in the east another Janata leader, Mr Biju Patnaik, was trailing badly. But Mr Madhu Dandavate won in

Opec united over checks on output

From David Young, Geneva

Opec unanimously agreed a new system of monitoring its members' oil production yesterday, in a move aimed at restoring the world's confidence in its ability to control its price structure and oil output.

Nigeria, which is already out of step with its Opec colleagues on prices and recent output cuts, became the last of the 13 member countries to accept the new formula in Geneva.

Details have still to be finalized on how the new system of policing members' output will operate, but all have accepted that independent inspectors will have full access to production records, delivery schedules and price arrangements.

All products would be covered and any barrier deals will be monitored. Dr Suproto, the Opec president and Indonesian oil minister, said yesterday that Opec will now consider what sanctions could be applied against members who breach their quota agreements.

A four-man committee is to be set up to administer the monitoring scheme, which will be run with the help of outside accountants and advisers. Indonesia will represent Asia; Venezuela, Latin America; and representatives of the Gulf States and Africa have still to be chosen.

Opec is hoping that the world oil market will react favourably to its determination to maintain prices and output and is hoping for a narrowing or even closing of the gap between spot market prices and prices charged on term contracts.

The organization is still convinced that the oil demand will rise as temperatures drop in the industrialized world this winter.

However, there is still a fear that North Sea producers, now undercutting the official Opec market price of \$29, will be tempted to cover losses on spot market trading by announcing price cuts.

BL need state cash for new models

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL has told the Government that if the steady improvement of its Austin Rover group is to continue, in the face of a growing challenge from General Motors of America, more public funding will be necessary to develop the next generation of new cars.

The news will come as a shock to government supporters who thought that the taxpayer had made his last contribution to a company which has received £2.3 billion of state aid since it was taken into public ownership in 1975.

The final tranche of government aid was drawn by BL 18 months ago. Since then Jaguar has been sold for £297 million and the profitable Unipart subsidiary is expected to follow it into private ownership next year.

But Austin Rover, with a tiny £300,000 operating profit in the first half of the financial year, is still a substantial loss maker.

The BL corporate plan covering 1985 to 1990 has just been submitted to the government. It warns that if Austin Rover is to resist the challenge of General Motors for its second place to Ford, it must find hundreds of millions of pounds to invest in new models.

In the past five years Austin Rover has, with one exception, replaced its range, starting with the Metro, followed by the Triumph Acclaim (now the Rover 200), Maestro and the Montego. Project XX, the replacement for the big Rover saloon, which will be launched jointly with Honda of Japan late next year, will be the last model developed with existing government funding.

To maintain a rolling programme of at least one new model every two years, it is estimated Austin Rover will need to invest a minimum of £150 million a year, increasing to £200 million within three years.

Despite continuing losses BL's balance sheet has been basically strong. Thanks to state aid it has not been saddled with heavy interest payments on privately-raised loans. However, that position is changing and it must now go the City and pay competitive rates for funds.

Its ability to do this has been damaged by the loss of Jaguar profits and will be further damaged when Unipart is privatized.

A public commitment from the Government to provide further funding on evidence of urgent need, would provide the additional backing BL needs when it goes to the banks.



Gift of words: Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy to Colonel Gaddafi, presenting Dr Robert Runcie yesterday with an inscribed Koran from the Libyan leader. Report, page 2. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Coal board predicts pithead ballots

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

National Coal Board officials are predicting that there could be pit head ballots within the next few weeks at the heart of the miners' strike in Yorkshire.

Board strategists detect moves in smaller collieries to arrange the kind of referendum which took place at Bersham colliery in North Wales.

All such votes have been declared unconstitutional by the National Union of Mine-workers, but the board has privately told "pick-to-work" activists that premises and facilities would be made available where necessary.

The board does not argue that larger pits will conduct votes, but believes that isolated ballots would receive a great deal of publicity and encourage pickmen to get back.

Officials have received indications that some miners would be prepared to organize votes. It is a question of ascertaining the degree of support for such moves.

Meanwhile the board is attempting to distance itself from the National Working Miners' Committee, because of their increasing reputation as the "bosses' men".

It is hoped that strong and traditionally faithful NUM members will increasingly take over the job of persuading men to go back to work.

The committee is sending speakers out to South Wales, Northumberland and Yorkshire in an attempt to encourage men back to work when collieries begin to open between January 2 and 7.

Although the vote at Bersham went in favour of the strike, fewer than half voted and the overwhelming majority are back at work.

'Forgeries' claim, page 2

Minister implicated in priest's killing

From Roger Boyes, Torun, Poland

For the first time since the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity supporter, one of the accused killers has publicly implicated a senior politician in the killing.

Jerking his head nervously, a former secret police officer, Lieutenant Leszek Pekala, yesterday told a crowded courtroom that a deputy minister had spoken of "interrupting" the priest's political activities and that this was misinterpreted as a hint to take "illegal action" against Father Popieluszko.

The Torun courtroom waited tensely to hear more about the chain of command: that is central to the outcome of this politically-sensitive crime, but Pekala kept his testimony deliberately vague.

During interrogations after his arrest on October 24, Pekala said that the acknowledged ringleader of the kidnapping, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, had declared that the mission had the backing of a deputy minister. Yesterday he withdrew from the statement.

"I deny that Piotrowski ever told us there was the agreement of any deputy minister to killing Popieluszko... one of the deputy ministers had spoken of interrupting Popieluszko's activities, and I inadvertently interpreted this as an illegal action," he said.

The role of the deputy minister, who was not named, is important to Pekala's defence because his argument is essentially that although he took part

THE TIMES Inside



Sporting chance

The Times Calendar of World Sport - events, dates, places for 1985. Pages 14 and 15



The dollar disaster



How imports have made Wall Street suffer during the past 12 months. Page 22

Time to relax again

Need another holiday? Try a trip to Turkey or sample the Seine country. Page 10

Monday



Cakes and ale for ever. Bernard Levin launches a counter-revolution against the killjoy fanatics.

So that was 1984. The Times' own distinctive guide to events of the year.

Pound falls 16 points to 1.1627

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound fell further yesterday to a new closing low in London of \$1.1627 against the dollar, 16 points down, on the day.

Dollar strength pushed the pound to \$1.1570 during the day's trading but there was a later recovery on hopes of optimistic oil price news from the Opec meeting in Geneva.

The sterling index, a measure of the pound's average value, fell 0.1 to 73.3.

The pound's weakness did not worry the stock market. In thin holiday trading, shares rose to a new high, the FT 30-share index rising by 16.2 to 945.2.

Interest rates on the London money markets have moved upwards during the recent bout of sterling weakness, and the outlook for interest rates in the New Year has become more gloomy. Details, page 19

Black ice and fog endanger drivers

Black ice, dense fog and snow brought treacherous conditions for motorists again throughout Britain yesterday. Freezing weather is expected at the weekend, with an increase in thick patchy fog in some areas.

The Automobile Association said yesterday that despite repeated warnings, many motorists were driving without headlights, or just side-lights.

A thick blanket of fog shrouded London and the South-east, and in some areas visibility was down to 25 yards. The Dartford tunnel was affected and motorways had speed restrictions and warning lights in operation.

Fog affected the Brecon and Carmarthen in Wales and the weather is expected to worsen, with a drop in temperature causing black ice. The only main road in Wales closed was that over the Horseshoe Pass, near Llanollen.

No new snowfalls were reported, but there was snow on roads in Wales, West Scotland and North-west England.

At Heathrow airport flights were delayed and diverted as fog reduced visibility on the main runways to about 150 metres. Landings were restricted to aircraft with category three, the most sophisticated electronic, landing gear.

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200 years on, a daily glimpse of times past

By Robin Young

From next Wednesday *The Times* will be presenting daily news reports called from our issues of the last 200 years, as a feature to celebrate the paper's bicentenary year in 1985.

Each excerpt will be from a paper of corresponding date in one of the year's since the publication began on January 1, 1785 - a sort of "on this day" sampler of how history appeared in the pages of *The Times*.

It will also be an exposition of how this paper has, despite its reputation for thundering, discharged its primary function, that of reporting the news. Some of the chosen stories

are of world catastrophes, others disasters on a more domestic scale, and some excitements of the day that history has almost forgotten. They will demonstrate how *The Times* summarized, crystallized or dramatized events that, shocked, horrified, amazed or sometimes merely entertained the world.

In the coming month, for example, readers will be reminded of risings in Berlin, riots in St Petersburg and massacres in Macedonia, but also of a Scottish celebration in Moscow, a skating disaster in Regent's Park and the time when people queued to pay income tax.

We will also be recalling in January the deaths of world leaders, the birth of world institutions, a disastrous defeat in the Balkans and a British triumph in the air.

The items will be as various as every day's news, and chosen from the daily pageant of our pages to provide the fullest flavour of events that were all special on their day.

Every day is a multifarious anniversary, and some dates offered an embarrassing choice of riches. After a painstaking search among 200 years of newspaper files, our researcher is also willing to concede that some dates are less eventful than others.

January 12, he believes, has customarily been one of the quietest days of the year, but that has not prevented his finding a fine piece of reproof with which to celebrate it.

The daily calendar of history taken from *The Times* starts on Wednesday with an account of the advent of soup kitchens in London. It is, for the moment, for readers to guess from which year's paper that will come. On Thursday we record the surrender of a colonial ruler and on Friday a famous London seige.

Every excerpt will be headed with the coat of arms appropriate to the *The Times* of its original date of publication, and it will appear in the outside column of the Letters page where, we hope, it will quickly become as compulsively attractive a feature as the letters themselves.

Harrods Sale

STARTS FRIDAY 4TH JAN 9AM TO 6PM
Great Reductions on Major Household Appliances



Example from AMANA. Fridge/Freezer Model SD1-25 Three-door 'Ice 'n' Water' frost-free refrigerator, 15.00 cu ft. 2 freezer compartments, 8.74 cu. ft. Adjustable glass shelving. White. Almond, Gold, Copper or Accented. 170 x 90 x 76cm. Requires plumbing. Made in USA. Harrods QTY. Price £2,195. Sale Price £1,795. Interest-free Credit £176.50 deposit and 9 monthly payments of £176.50 each. Total credit price £1,795.

Major Household Appliances, Condit Way, Second Floor. Carriage fees over a mile extra. All reductions are from Harrods previous prices. INTEREST-FREE CREDIT AGREEMENTS with 10 monthly payments, including deposit, are available on many single items over £100; see examples given above. Ask for written details. Sales Opening Hours Fri 4th Jan to Sat 12th Jan: 9am to 6pm, Wed 9am to 7pm. 14th Jan to 26th Jan: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am to 5pm, Wed 9am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 6pm.



Union leaders shocked by shipyard men's rush for redundancy

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Union leaders prepared to fight to preserve the merchant and shipbuilding industry at its present size were said yesterday to be shocked at the overwhelming acceptance by Tyneside workers of voluntary redundancy.

Swan Hunter, the composite yard which has just built the Atlantic Conveyor replacement for the one sunk in the Falklands war, is likely to have its call for 2,100 redundancies oversubscribed. A leading shop steward said there would be no difficulty meeting the target.

Mr Bob Welford, secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at Swan's four yards, said: "I am disappointed that so many men have volunteered to get out of the industry."

"The trouble is that many of them no longer believe Swan's has a future, others were a bit worried that the severance scheme might be stopped so they would lose if they didn't go now, and others were just fed up with the way the industry is going."

Mr Graham Day, British Shipbuilders chairman, has been told by the Government that the shipyard industry which has been conspicuously profitable compared with the deficits in the merchant shipbuilding yards, must be sold to private investors, much progress, in that direction is expected by the spring. Swan Hunter is one of the yards most likely to face early sale.

Mr Welford described as a disgrace the prospect of men in their twenties leaving Swan's under voluntary severance schemes.

They should be the backbone of the future Tyne workforce, he said. "They are not even benefiting financially from it. They will only get £2,000 to £3,000 at the most, and that won't last long."

Swan's will begin next year with an order book at its lowest since nationalization. After the new Atlantic Conveyor leaves in January the yard will be left with the fitting out of the carrier HMS Ark Royal and the building of two Type 22 frigates, replacements for HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry lost in the Falklands.

Mr Alex Marsh, Swan's managing director, said the yard hoped to win orders in the new year for two more Type 22 frigates.

Inquiry into NUJ men's pensions

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

Mr Ken Ashton, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, and Mr Naranjin Paik, its finance officer, will remain on paid leave pending the outcome of an inquiry into their pension arrangements. A four-man team from the union's executive is due to start today a month-long investigation.

Mr Ashton and Mr Paik are accused of negotiating enhanced pensions without the full knowledge and approval of the national leadership.

The general secretary, who earns about £20,000 a year, is said to have arranged a pension equal to two-thirds of his salary on retirement, compared with a normal figure of about a third.

The deal was apparently approved by the staff committee, and endorsed by the executive, but there appears to be some doubt as to whether they were aware of the full implications of the decision. The membership of the staff committee and executive has changed since the application was processed a year ago.

The two men are understood to be adamant that they went through all the constitutional processes in order to have the deal approved. Their opponents, however, are seeking a strong disciplinary line from the executive if the four investigators present a critical report to the executive at the end of next month.

Mr Ashton in particular has encountered severe criticism from left-wingers on the executive and they were prominent among those pressing for an investigation when the executive discussed the matter before Christmas.

It is understood that the allegations came to the attention of the executive when one of the trustees of the pension fund wrote to the union's headquarters suggesting that the leadership might have been in breach of its duty.

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Protesters arrested inside military base

By Pat Healy

A number of people were arrested yesterday inside the military base at Alconbury, Cambridgeshire during demonstrations and worship by members of Christian CND to mark Holy Innocents Day.

Others were arrested outside the base for obstructing the highway after repeatedly sitting down or lying in the road leading to the main gate of the base.

The Ministry of Defence said later that 29 people were found on the base during the day, of whom two were being questioned last night by Ministry of Defence police on suspicion of criminal damage. A total of 17 were arrested and released without charge after questioning. The remainder were ejected from the base. Civilian police arrested 12 people outside the base.

About 60 members of Christian CND held a service outside the base, which is believed to be designated as a support base for the cruise missiles to be sited at RAF Molesworth near by. Their placards included one declaring: "Herod killed babies indiscriminately. Nuclear war will do the same."

They marched to the main gate of the base to sing hymns while others attempted to enter the base. Four succeeded in doing so, by climbing through a hole in the fence which had been cut the previous night "under cover of fog, darkness and carol singing."

All four were quickly removed by the police, who had to use bolt cutters to remove chains with which other Christian CND members had linked themselves while sitting down in the road.

Mr Paul Johns, chairperson of Christian CND, said Holy Innocents Day was remembered by Christians as the day King Herod had ordered the deaths of hundreds of children for the sake of his own security.

The fear and mistrust between nations today meant that innocent children continued to die because the superpowers preferred to spend vast sums on protecting themselves from each other and neglected the world's poor.

"We challenge the nuclear powers to take the Christmas message of peace on earth seriously, to come to the new year disarmament talks with genuine disarmament initiatives and not with self justified propaganda," Mr Johns said.

Alliance's conditions for power

By John Winder

The conditions upon which an Alliance grouping holding the balance of power after a general election would approach one of its rivals to form a government were outlined by Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, yesterday.

He said that the Alliance's demands would be "constitutionally proper", and it would approach the party with the largest number of votes.

If that were the Conservatives, the Alliance would say that they must take more account of unemployment and create more jobs, particularly for school leavers.

If it were the Labour Party, the emphasis would be on changes in Labour's "deeply damaging" foreign policy and "unacceptable" defence policy.

In the course of his interview, on BBC Radio's *The World at One*, Dr Owen criticized Mrs Margaret Thatcher's continued "Fortress Falklands" policy.

"She is wrong to give paramountcy to the Falkland Islanders which effectively means they have a veto", he said.

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Strike at Ford is over

By John Winder

The six-week strike by 270 sewing machinists, which cost the Ford Motor Company £249 million at showroom prices is over.

The 150 seat-cover machinists at Dagenham and their 120 colleagues at Halewood voted yesterday to accept a peace formula worked out between the management and leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The workers, mostly women, want to be graded as skilled rather than unskilled and have won their argument that there should be independent arbitration.

In return, the company has gained an assurance from the union that the case would not be treated as a precedent for grievances by other groups of workers.

About 43,400 vehicles were lost because of the dispute and more than 10,000 other workers were laid off with the loss of about £4 million in wages.

Initially, the company rejected the idea of independent arbitration and insisted that the agreed management procedure for assessing skills should be used.

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Archbishop quotes Koran at Gadafi

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday quoted some well-chosen words from the Koran at Colonel Gadafi of Libya, and welcomed his "encouraging assurances" that the four British "hostages" would soon be freed.

Dr Runcie quoted: "It is not God's way to have your trust be disappointed, nor to have your faith fruitless, for God is gentle towards mankind, and merciful."

That was his response, slightly stage-managed to have effect in Libya, after he received a full report from his envoy Mr Terry Waite who returned from Tripoli on Thursday.

Mr Waite came bearing a gift, a copy of the Koran with a message from Colonel Gadafi inscribed in Arabic in it.

It said: "My greetings and congratulations for the new year, hoping it will be a year of blessing for humanity." He wrote it on Christmas Day when he discussed with Mr Waite the hostages' position and other matters of mutual interest. These, it emerged yesterday, included an extended conversation about the influence of Greek philosophy on Islam and Christianity.

One message Mr Waite brought back was that Colonel Gadafi was concerned about Libyan students in Britain, who were "lonely, isolated, and fearful", particularly now there was no Libyan People's Bureau in London. Mr Waite agreed to raise the matter in London, saying he thought the British churches would be able to organize some counselling.

Since his return the secretary of the British Council of Churches, Dr Philip Morgan, has agreed in principle to set up some such system, based on local councils of churches. Details are being worked out.

Mr Waite has also been in touch with the Foreign Office, and has spoken to Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State with responsibility for Arab affairs. Mr Luce congratulated him on the skill with which he had carried out his mission.

The Foreign Office said that Mr Waite had not represented the Government, adding that the hostages' release would be "a constructive and positive development." That was taken as a hint that the Government could be ready to relax some of the restrictions that followed the siege at the People's Bureau and the killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

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Curtain call: Ian McCurrach, who plays Pip, and Yolande Palfrey, the younger Estella, before going on stage in *The Old Vic production of Great Expectations*, which opened on Boxing Day (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Five arrested over raid on grave

Police have arrested five people in connection with the desecration of the grave of the Duke of Beaufort, died in February, aged 83.

The raids were carried out by Avon and Somerset police, and described as "quite successful" by a spokesman. It is not clear whether charges will be brought against any of the five who have been detained.

Police would not release the names of the detainees, but confirmed that they were being held for questioning about the incident.

The five, including one woman, were transferred to a north Bristol police station.

It is understood that several articles from the Beaufort family cemetery have been recovered, including the wooden cross stolen from the grave site at Badminton Parish Church, Avon, on Boxing Day.

A group calling itself the Hunt Retribution Squad claimed responsibility for trying to dig up the duke's body. The duke, who was the Master of the Beaufort Hunt, died in February, aged 83.

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Dalyell allegations rejected

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A Home Office minister denied last night allegations that blundering British intelligence officers killed Miss Hilma Merril, who was found dead near her home in Shrewsbury in March.

The denial was made by Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, in a letter to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow. Mr Dalyell asked Mr Shaw during a Commons debate last week to investigate the death when he suggested Miss Merril interrupted a search of her home.

Mr Dalyell said a search was made for papers linked to the sinking of the General Belgrano because Miss Merril, a noted rose grower and opponent of nuclear power, was related to a naval officer involved in the operation against the Argentine cruiser.

In his letter Mr Shaw, who received a report from West Mercia police over Christmas, said Mr Dalyell: "I am able to state unequivocally that your allegations about the intelligence services being involved are totally without foundation."

Mr Shaw said the involvement of Special Branch officers in the police investigation had been raised and he understood from the West Mercia police that they had been consulted during an early stage.

Glasgow anger over grants

By Ronald Faux

Glasgow District Council is angry about the city's exclusion from a £12 million grant by the Government for local authority housing programmes.

Most of the money, which will be paid in the present financial year, is for essential repairs to council houses and improvement grants.

Glasgow council, the largest housing authority in Scotland, calculates that £200 million is needed immediately to bring its council housing back to good condition. It says that it would take £80 million to ensure that every house and flat is proofed against wind and weather.

Mrs Jean McFadden, leader of the ruling Labour group, said that the exclusion was outrageous and was the penalty for the council's decision to freeze rents.

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Police investigating forged national coal board letter

By Paul Valley

The police are investigating a forged letter, purporting to come from the National Coal Board, which has been sent to working miners in Yorkshire.

The letter, which is being widely circulated among strikers in other coalfields as proof of the board's "decisive unreliability", tells working miners that their full protection cannot be guaranteed away from the board's premises.

It also says that those who have returned to work may have to move, at their own expense, to different coalfields when the strike is over.

The letter bears the signature of Mr Alfred Tuke, the board's Doncaster area director. Yesterday he condemned the letter as a "clever, mischief-making forgery."

South Yorkshire police confirmed that the origin was being investigated.

The letter states: "I can assure you that the board will endeavour to protect you from any intimidation... In all honesty, this will not last for the rest of your life, and indeed will be continued for only a few weeks after the strike."

It may become necessary to move you to another area or make other arrangements immediately the strike ends. The colliery manager will be speaking to you about this matter. The board will of course pay you the normal transferred worker's allowance but I regret we will not be able to find new accommodation [sic] or pay any removal costs."

If it becomes necessary for you to be transferred more than once to avoid further intimidation at your new pit, then we will of course consider the situation at that time."

The letter sent to 30 working miners at Brodsworth colliery, near Doncaster, five weeks ago, but it is now being circulated among strikers in the Durham, Derbyshire, and South Wales, where, according to coal board officials, it is believed to be genuine and "proof of the peridy and deceitful unreliability of the NCB. Little do they know it is proof of the dirty tricks of their own union members."

Yesterday Mr Tuke said: "It is my signature and it is coal board notepaper. They were taken from a genuine letter I sent out to all the workforce in July."

Mr Tuke wrote to all the working miners concerned and told them the letter was a forgery. "The letter is a complete fabrication aimed at playing on men's fears for the future."

The production and circulation of the document is the latest move in the propaganda battle to win the hearts and minds of the indecisive members of the National Union of Mineworkers.

It seems timed to preempt the board's advertising campaign which begins in the popular and local press on Monday and aims to tempt strikers back to work with the carrot of virtually tax-free wages for the rest of the financial year.

The union and the board feel that there is all to play for in the coming weeks when the Christmas "drift back to work" will either be accelerated or stemmed. The union makes much of the idea that many of those who returned to work for Christmas bonuses will be back on strike next week.

Union officials talk readily of strikers who have returned to work and then later rejoined the strike, but examples of such men are hard to find.

One such miner at a pit in the Durham coalfield went back to work for only two days, local strikers say, before deciding that the strike was right. In the privacy of his own home the man, who asked that neither his name nor his colliery should be disclosed, told a different story.

"I was out because of loyalty to the union, but when Scargill refused the Nacods settlement I decided to go back. Immediately there were threatening phone calls to my mother, so I rejoined the strike to spare her."

Last night, Mr J H Thompson, an executive member of the union's Yorkshire area, was confident that the 120,000 strikers would remain resolute.

That was why, he said, the union did not need to involve itself in forgery. "There is nothing to do with the NUM."

Holiday for miners' children

By A Staff Reporter

Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, has received an apology from Capital, a London commercial radio station, after a disc jockey described him as "Hitler number two."

But Capital said yesterday that it did not intend to broadcast a public retraction because the comment was made as light-hearted banter, and an on-air correction would appear to make it serious.

Miss Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, complained to the Independent Broadcasting Authority about the remarks made on December 1 by Greg Edwards while handing over to another presenter.

The director general of the IBA, Mr John Whitney, a former managing director of Capital, replied: "We find (the remarks) unacceptable. We have spoken to Capital management and understand that the presenter will be spoken to in the strongest terms and that Mr Scargill will be written to with an apology on behalf of the station."

Miss Harman welcomed the comments yesterday, but said that Capital ought to broadcast an apology.

"Hundreds of thousands of Londoners would have heard this libel against Mr Scargill. Capital owe him a public apology. It is a sad reflection on the media if some broadcasters now feel they can libel Mr Scargill freely. Such remarks would never have been made about Mr MacGregor, the coal board chairman. But if they had there would have been a public apology the next day."

Capital said that Miss Harman was the only person to complain. "Certainly we have talked to the disc jockey concerned, but we feel that if you go back on light-hearted banter, you lend it a weight which would be counterproductive. We have written to Mr Scargill to apologise, and we thought Miss Harman was satisfied with that."

Apology to Scargill for Hitler gibe

By A Staff Reporter

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Winning choir visits hospital

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Expectant mothers in the Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast, had an unexpected visit yesterday from the BBC's Choir of the Year before its success in the nationwide competition was disclosed on BBC2 last night.

The 28-strong Renaissance Singers went on to the hospital to see one of their number who was nearing the end of her pregnancy there.

As well as the threat of abortion, voluntary groups stand to be the first to suffer the pangs of rate-capping. As the 18 capped councils cut their spending, which they will have to do sooner or later, they are likely initially to make savings outside the town hall walls. In London and the big cities, abolition could mean a shortfall of £47 million a year in funds for voluntary groups and that sum could be further increased as the Government's rates targets are met.

Concluded

Benn calls for annual parliamentary elections

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Mr Tony Benn has called for Parliament to be elected annually because, he says, allowing people to vote more often would offer a better way of controlling those who wield power.

In an article to appear in next month's edition of the magazine *Marxism Today*, Mr Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, says that Britain needs a comprehensive, peaceful and democratic electoral change designed merely to keep out a Tory government. Mr Benn states that the only relevant change would be the Chartist demand for an annual Parliament.

He says that the greatest deception in the Labour movement is practised by those who pretend that the problem facing the country could be described in terms of "Thatcher and Thatcherism", and that to replace her and substitute an anti-Thatcherite government would be an adequate response.

They must remember that there were plenty of people queuing up to form such a government, including Mr Francis Pym, Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel.

Mr Benn said: "If Thatcher was in truth the real problem, the Brighton

investigating
national
board letter

Marriage stays popular but more teenagers are delaying ceremony

By Richard Dowden

More young people are delaying getting married, according to a recent government statistical report, even though the evidence suggests that marriage is as popular as ever.

The number of teenagers getting married dropped sharply last year, according to preliminary statistics from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, about one woman in five marrying last year was in her teens, whereas the figure was one in three 10 years ago.

But more people marry in their mid to late twenties, the report says, which suggests that they are merely delaying marriage not rejecting it.

As women marrying under 21 are among the most likely to divorce, that delay could be a stabilizing factor in the nation's marriage pattern.

Mr Robert Chester, senior lecturer in sociology at Hull

University, said yesterday that there was a shift in the timing of marriage, with a tendency for people not to marry in their teens. "There has been an improvement in the availability of contraception and abortion and this has led to fewer 'shotgun weddings'."

"Unemployment and the recession are also factors which do not allow many young people to afford to get married. Also, many more women are staying on in education and there is an increasing tendency for them to work before they get married."

Church weddings are also still popular, with 69 per cent of those marrying for the first time doing so with a religious ceremony, although the number getting married in the Church of England has decreased slightly. In all, 51 per cent of marriages were celebrated with a religious ceremony.

More divorced people are getting remarried, according to the report, with a 2 per cent increase last year.

The divorce rate seemed to have settled down, Mr Chester said, "and the pattern, which stabilized some three or four years ago, seems to be that a third of marriages are remarriages and two thirds are first-time marriages."

That resumes a trend that was interrupted in 1981 and 1982. Only 19 per cent of remarriages for one or both partners were conducted with a religious ceremony, which perhaps indicates the difficulties of obtaining ecclesiastical permission to remarry in church.

There were 344,000 marriages last year, an increase of 0.5 per cent on 1983's figure.

Marriages 1983 (Monitor from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP; free).

Pilot saves jet struck by lightning

By A Staff Reporter

A pilot was praised yesterday by the Royal Air Force after his brave jet was struck by lightning.

Squadron Leader Bob Burroughs was flying at about 1,000ft when the aircraft was struck by lightning, affecting the engine controls. He took the jet up to nearly 5,000 ft before switching off the engine, which was producing excessive exhaust temperatures.

He then had difficulty in restarting the engine. A Ministry of Defence official said that if the engine had not restarted Squadron Leader Burroughs would have had to eject from the aircraft.

The official said that it was rare for lightning to affect an aircraft to that extent and the pilot had acted very well, following normal procedures for dealing with such a situation.

The incident occurred during a flight from RAF Chivenor, Devon, on December 18. Squadron Leader Burroughs was on leave yesterday and not available for comment.

Football game death charge

John Ellison, aged 21, a bricklayer, of Higher Croft Road, Lower Darwen, Blackburn, Lancashire, appeared before magistrates in Carlisle, Cumbria, yesterday charged with unlawful killing of a football supporter.

He is alleged to have killed Mr Peter Farish, aged 28, from Carlisle, who died in hospital on Thursday after being on a life support machine since an incident after Carlisle United's game with Blackburn on Sunday.

Crack found in oil rig support

A crack has been found in a horizontal brace 220 feet under water on a North Sea oil platform. It was discovered during maintenance on Occidental's Claymore platform 110 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

The company said there was no danger to the platform; repairs were expected to take four to six weeks. Drilling has been stopped as a precaution, but production is continuing at about 95,000 barrels a day.

Four teenagers on fire charge

Hertfordshire Police have charged four teenagers, one aged 14, two aged 18, and one aged 16, in connection with a £65,000 fire at Bancroft Dairies, Bancroft, Hitchin, earlier this month. They will appear at Hitchin Juvenile Court on January 1.

The fire destroyed seven milk floats, gutted sheds at the back of the site, and other property belonging to Wallace Brothers, the owners of the dairies.

Ethiopia wheat loaded free

Southampton dock employees and farmers yesterday completed the loading of 10,000 tons of wheat given by a Norwegian church foundation for famine relief in Ethiopia.

The loaders had worked over Christmas and gave their services free, saving labour charges of up to £25,000.

Conman Santa

Police in Luton, Bedfordshire, are hunting a Santa Claus conman who told householders he was collecting money for an old people's home, and was accompanied by a child holding a collecting box.

Actor verdict

A post mortem on the actor Ian Hendry, aged 53, who collapsed and died on Christmas Eve, disclosed that his death was due to natural causes. An inquest will not be held.

Tory call for BBC cuts, not bigger fee

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Conservative Party's media committee is to call for large cuts in the size of the BBC as an alternative to raising the corporation's licence fee from £46 to £65.

The committee, thought to be the left of most Conservative thinking in the House of Commons, suggests that the BBC scrap breakfast television, sell Radio 1 and the corporation's local radio stations, abandon game shows and charge advertising rates for sports sponsors whose events are shown on television.

Mr Tim Brinton, a former television newscaster now MP for Gravesham, has told the television trade weekly, *Broadcast*, that the proposed increase was seen as wholly unreasonable by the media committee, and there was widespread support for the proposal to be rejected.

A decision on the application is expected a few weeks before

the present licence fee runs out at the end of March.

The £65 licence fee would be a severe charge on the family budget, Mr Brinton said. He was attempting to generate an urgent interest in Parliament and the country to debate the future of public broadcasting.

Satellite and cable will make it unworkable if public broadcasting goes on in the same way. The best thing for the BBC to do is to stop trying to compete with the commercial boys and abandon the bid for high ratings.

"Should public money be spent compulsorily on *Blankety Blank* when the BBC is turning down *The Jewel in the Crown*? If the BBC goes on competing there will be further drops in standards," Mr Brinton said.

The committee's critics believe that stripping back the BBC's empire is unlikely to save the amount of money required to peg the licence fee at its present level.

BBC drops screening of violent sex film

By Out Arts Correspondent

The BBC unexpectedly decided yesterday not to screen a film with explicit scenes of sex and violence, but denied that it was connected with its request for an increase in the television licence fee to £65.

Looking for Mr Goodbar, which was due to go out tonight stars the American actress Diane Keaton, was given an 'X' certificate on its cinema release. Mr Graeme McDonald, controller of BBC 2, viewed the film, with cuts, before it was inserted into the Christmas schedules.

Shortly before Christmas the BBC had second thoughts. Senior executives viewed the cut version again and decided to take it out. Newspapers were informed yesterday.

Iranian boys can stay

The home office has announced that two Iranian brothers, Ali Zandi Ateshbar, aged seven and Kandiz Zandi Ateshbar, aged 13, may stay indefinitely with their British foster parents in Torquay, Devon.

Mr Walter Wyatt and his wife Megan, have looked after the boys for six years, and their case was taken up by Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill.

Mrs Wyatt, aged 68, said: "If they had been deported to Iran the elder boy would very likely have had a gun put in his hand and sent to the front."

The family had suffered enough tragedy. Their father was killed mysteriously last summer and their mother has "got over the shock". The boys' parents left them with the Wyatts and returned to Iran.

Problems arose when the younger boy reached school age. The Home Office insisted that he could stay only if he received private education. In spite of public donations the Wyatts found the financial strain of sending the brothers to private school too much. Now they have permission to send the boys to state schools.

Terry Wogan bids a cheery farewell to Radio 2

By Patricia Clough

Many a tear dropped into kitchen sinks or onto steering wheels yesterday as a soft Irish brogue which for the past 12 years has cheerfully got people out of bed and off to work in the mornings bade farewell.

But inside the Broadcasting House studio the problem was keeping the champagne, rather than the usual coffee, out of the controls as Terry Wogan ad libbed for the last time through the two and a half hour, five-days-a-week disc-jockey programme that made him one of Britain's best-loved broadcasters.

There were the favourite jokes, including the one about the BBC virgins dancing on the roof. There were thanks for the "support and abuse" from listeners who had learned to write in with zany Woganesque comments - his army, he said, of unpaid scriptwriters.

There was a specially affectionate exchange of insults with Jimmy Young, his old sparring partner, in the quarter of an hour or so before Young took over the Radio 2 airwaves.

"Stop crying, if you start to cry I'll cry," Wogan said. "There are kissing noises," they think we do that for real, and later "I shall miss the old fool particularly."

Afterwards, a sign of the extent to which his jokes have become woven into a semi-myth around his person, he obliged photographers by pretending to be thrown out of Broadcasting House by security guards. He then posed disconsolately on a suitcase, a large unemployment card in his hand.

He is giving up his Radio 2 show, which started at 7.30 am, in spite of his pretence that he has been dismissed, to concentrate on hosting a three-weekly chat show on BBC 1 which begins in February.

His dulcet Irish tones will be replaced on Radio 2 by the Glaswegian accent of Ken Bruce, who Mr Wogan has dubbed Bruce Kent, a 33-year-old disc jockey from BBC Radio Scotland.

In a momentarily serious mood later he put his radio success down simply to "having recognized how people in the 1970s and 1980s want to be addressed on television and radio."

"The days of talking at people have gone. They want to see and hear you, warts and all, you have to be a human being. It is not enough to do requests, you have to establish a dialogue rather than a monologue."

The only thing you can not do, he said, is embarrass the audience, which is why he could not burst into tears on his last programme. "They would die of embarrassment, they would never listen to you again."

Any tears in his eyes yesterday morning, he insisted, were caused by alcohol.

His new chat show, like his radio programme, he said, would be live and unhearsed. But would miss the element of fantasy possible on radio and listeners' letters. He did not know whether it was possible to do letters on a television show. It would need an autocrat, which would destroy the spontaneity.

There were bound to be nights when the programme went badly, he reflected. "When it's three times a week something is going to be duff. You can't be a finely-polished work of art every time. It should have rough edges, it shouldn't be comfortable."

If things went wrong, he mused, "I could invite them to join me in 'side with me' or something like that."



Catherine McTiernan, aged seven months, with her mother, Mrs Suzanne McTiernan.

Transplant baby 'comfortable'

Catherine McTiernan, aged seven months, who is Britain's youngest liver transplant patient, was yesterday "comfortable" in the intensive care unit at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge.

Mr John Edwards, a spokesman for the hospital, said that the baby was "as well as can be expected in one so young who has just undergone major surgery."

The five-hour operation was performed on Thursday by Professor Roy Calne, Professor of Surgery at Cambridge and a

pioneer in transplant surgery. The baby has remained unconscious since the operation.

"That is, nothing to be worried or alarmed about," Mr Edwards said.

Her parents, Mr Brendan McTiernan and his wife, Suzanne, of Norwich Road, Ipswich, had hoped to fly her to America in the new year for specialist treatment, and a

£200,000 appeal was launched. But doctors said that she might not live long enough to make the journey.

The baby's rare liver condition was diagnosed when she was 10 weeks old. She underwent emergency surgery at King's College Hospital, London, and appeared to be making a good recovery until six weeks ago when she was rushed to hospital again.

Mr McTiernan said that money given to the appeal would go towards medical research to help other babies.

MP fears to accept Soviet invitation

By John Winder

Mr Stefan Terlezki, the British MP born in the Ukraine, is still wondering whether to accept an invitation from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the Ukrainian home he has not seen for 42 years for fear that he might not be allowed to return to Britain.

Mr Terlezki, Conservative MP for Cardiff West, had two conversations with Mr Gorbachev during the Russian leader's recent visit to Britain, and was assured that as an MP he would not be allowed to return to Britain.

But the MP told Mr Gorbachev that he was worried about the KGB and he said yesterday that he was in no doubt that, having escaped from Russian-occupied Austria at the end of the war and having been wounded in the process, he would not be allowed out of the USSR at the end of a visit but for the fact that he is a member of Parliament.

He is considering whether to ask a journalist or a fellow MP to go with him and his Welsh-born wife and family to visit his father and sister in their exile home in Siberia and to his own birthplace near the Carpathian mountains in the Ukraine. He believes that he would then have added assurance.

Mr Gorbachev twice during his visit to Britain asked Mr Terlezki to visit the USSR, to see his father and sister and to see his home once again.

When the MP said he was worried about the KGB, Mr Gorbachev told him: "You have nothing to worry about. You are a member of Parliament now and we shall help you as much as we can."

"On the second occasion I met him," Mr Gorbachev again said to me: "You must visit the beautiful Ukraine," I said that

perhaps I would, but that I needed to be sure that I would get back."

Mr Terlezki said that the Russian leader had assured him that there would be no problem. He had been pleasant and honest in his invitation.

However, the MP believes that lower down the line there are officials who might take a different view.

He also foresees obstacles in the way of revisiting his native village in what was part of Poland before the war. He believes that SS20 missiles may be sited not far away and knows that some parts of the Ukraine are "no-go" areas. He put the point to Major-General Rogov, in charge of security during Mr Gorbachev's visit, and he refused to confirm or deny it.

Mr Terlezki's father, who was exiled from the Ukraine to an area near Irkutsk in Siberia, visited his son on a 28-day visa from Russia earlier this year. He had been exiled after pleading, as a trade union leader, for better food and conditions for the people who worked with him.



Mr Stefan Terlezki (right) and his father, Oleska.

'Q' train that keeps vandals on the run

British Rail is making good use of an undercover service, a shabby-looking train that prowls around the Glasgow rail network hunting vandals on or beside the tracks. It is catching them at the rate of 300 a year.

The "Q" train, a Scottish response to a problem costing British Rail more than £5 million a year - £600,000 of it in Scotland - has proved so effective that a similar train has been put into service in the Edinburgh area.

The trains take their names from the wartime "Q" ships, seemingly innocent vessels that were packed with concealed weaponry to provide an unwelcome surprise for enemy raiders.

The vandals of Glasgow are very surprised when we catch them in the act," Mr Archie Monahan, aged 59, says. He is a British Rail chief traction inspector, who has worked with the train since it started eight years ago.

"Once we caught some youngsters on the track for the second time. They told us the local vandals had put a contract out on the train to see who would be the first to derail it."

Outwardly no more than an elderly powered railway coach, the train patrols high-risk areas. Half a dozen plain-clothes British Transport

police officers lurk inside, peering out of mesh-protected windows.

They stay in radio contact with colleagues in a transport police patrol car which follows the train by road.

When vandals are seen, the theory is that the train stops and the police jump out. In practice, however, the train sometimes carries on well past the vandals before stopping, to allow its passengers to creep back.

Trespassers and thieves provide much work for the "Q" train. One of Mr Monahan's memories is of a squad of workmen, complete with brilliant orange vests, working on the tracks as the train rolled past.

A radio check showed that no work was scheduled for that stretch and seven cable thieves were caught in the act.

Then there was the teenager who was getting in some practice on the track for a motor cycle trials event. "He was ahead of us, and we were clocking 50mph. But he had to stop at a level crossing."

There were also two Glasgow prostitutes seen entertaining a customer on a quiet stretch of track. "A lady constable got out and told him: 'Whatever those two are charging you, you can add the fine for trespass.'"

Stonehenge prepares for battle

Plans are being prepared for the expected confrontation with thousands of rock fans after the National Trust has on the free summer pop music festival at Stonehenge.

The two-month illegal festival can attract about 30,000 people, who camp around the ancient monument, but the trust says it seriously damages the site and presents an increasing annual bill to the taxpayer for repairing damage and policing.

The trust is holding talks with the monument's owner, the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, and the police and local authorities on ways of preventing the festival.

"We are expecting confrontation and we are making plans to meet that," Mr Tom Burr, the trust's press spokesman, said. High Court action was being considered.

Talks were taking place with the commission to allow limited access to Stonehenge for the summer solstice on June 21. But to stop the pop festival, which lasts a month each side of the solstice, tons of fencing would be erected.

Mr Burr said that it cost more than £20,000 to repair damage caused by fans at the site. Ancient barrows were damaged by campers digging into them, riding motor cycles over them, and destroying the protective turf.

A publicity campaign was to be mounted to inform fans of the reasons for the ban on the event, which has been held every year since 1974. About 250 people were arrested, mainly for drug offences, during the festival this year.

Big police hunts to use national computer link

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Large-scale police investigations such as those into the Yorkshire Ripper murders will in future be able to tap the storage resources of the Police National Computer if local computers are in danger of being overwhelmed with material.

Access to the storage facilities of the national computer, based at Hendon, north-west London, will become available early next year.

All forces are now linked to its collection of national indexes, which cover criminal records, car owners, fingerprints, stolen vehicles, missing and wanted people and disqualified drivers.

The new storage role will come into effect when forces using small computers for big investigations such as a murder, large robbery or a series of serious offences run out of capacity. It might also be used where an investigation stretches across several police force areas.

The use of the national computer, which has a capacity for one and a half million records, is part of an attempt by the Home Office and the police service to catch up as fast as possible with developments in computing.

The Yorkshire Ripper case showed the inadequacy of traditional police methods and the need to make use of computer facilities.

The Home Office has recommended forces to take up a system called Autoindex while specifications are drawn up for a system to cope with large inquiries. But Autoindex has drawbacks, including limited storage and slow reactions.

It has been adopted by about 20 forces and the national computer function will increase its capacity from 10,000 records (equal to 30,000 records in a manual card index system) to up to 250,000 records. The national computer has enough capacity to handle up to six large investigations simultaneously.

When the national computer is called in Home Office staff will install terminals which allow users to examine its records and to store material.

The Autoindex system is a stopgap before the introduction later this year of the specialist system - Holmes (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System).

The Holmes package is expected to be taken up by the first of its users in the mid-80s of next year, but even a specially developed system will not guarantee a capability for all large investigations.

The Home Office is already considering providing its own spare capacity for the Holmes system outside the national computer.

Officials believe that demand for the national computer and its successor is not going to be heavy. Research has shown that only 5 per cent of all large inquiries involve more than 10,000 records.

Computer systems dispense with the huge collections of index cards, the stock in trade of incident rooms. The Holmes system will allow extensive cross-reference of clues and facts.

Several forces have already bypassed the Autoindex system and moved to the larger Mica (Major Incident Computer Application), which has been developed commercially. It can also be connected to the national computer if necessary.

Both believe it makes important moves this week to bring in some limited no-surcharge guarantees, as the main booking season opens next week.

Blue Sky, the tour operator arm of British Caledonian, announced earlier this week a no-surcharge guarantee on holidays booked by the end of February. It followed similar guarantees for a limited period from Olympic Holidays and Flair.

Most other tour operators have more limited no-surcharge guarantees, mostly with a 10 per cent ceiling. There was no sign yesterday that any would move to improve the guarantees.

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Colombia orders inquiry into cocaine discovery in Madrid diplomatic bag

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

The Government of President Belisario Betancur of Colombia yesterday initiated a high-level investigation after charges that cocaine has been smuggled into Spain in a diplomatic bag.

President Betancur pledged that the investigation would be pursued vigorously "to its ultimate consequences, no matter the heads that roll."

The Second Secretary at the Colombian Embassy in Madrid and a Spanish journalist were arrested on charges of cocaine smuggling.

Spanish authorities say cocaine was discovered in cans of television film sent in a diplomatic bag to the Madrid Embassy from the Press office of the Presidential Palace in Bogotá. Then a journalist, who visited Bogotá last month, told officials the film was for a documentary he was making for Spanish television.

The Colombian Foreign Minister Señor Augusto Ramírez Ocampo, yesterday insisted that there was no evidence that diplomatic bags had been used before for drug smuggling. He could not discount the possibility that the Madrid case was a plot by "Colombian cocaine" drug racketeers to discredit the Bogotá Government.

Colombia's explosive "drug war" led President Betancur to

impose a state of siege eight months ago after the assassination of his Justice Minister, Señor Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who had made a courageous personal campaign against the drug racket.

Señor Lara Bonilla's death, a contract killing ordered by leading drug capos also led the President to reverse his opposition to a US-Colombian extradition treaty, agreed by the previous Government, which he had said he would never enforce.

Today several detained capos face extradition and the "connection" has threatened to kill five Americans for every Colombian handed over to the US.

Its threats are never idle. On November 26 a bomb exploded outside the US Embassy in Bogotá, killing a Colombian passer-by. In recent weeks the US State Department has withdrawn 10 diplomats and advised all remaining staff to confine themselves to the embassy and their well-guarded homes.

Although the United States remains the principal market for marijuana and cocaine from South America, Colombian racketeers have increasingly cultivated Western Europe over the last two years as an

important secondary market for cocaine.

● **MADRID:** President Betancur yesterday appealed by telephone directly to the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, to carry out a thorough and rigorous investigation according to reports published in Madrid (Harry Debelius writes).

Since the summary dismissal of the Colombian Second Secretary in Madrid, Señor Gustavo Jacome Lamus, and his arrest on Saturday, a Spaniard, Señor José Javier Bomez Ballesteros, has been arrested on suspicion of distributing the drug.

Two more suspected members of the international drug ring have been taken into custody in Madrid, unofficially identified as Señor Jorge Luis Ochoa and Señor Gilberto Rodríguez, both of whom are wanted for questioning by the US.

● **WASHINGTON:** The US Ambassador to Colombia, Mr Lewis Tambs, will soon return to Bogotá after a holiday despite death threats from drug traffickers, according to the State Department spokesman.

Cocaine dealers threatened the ambassador with death after Washington asked Bogotá to extradite some 70 Colombians suspected of drug running.



Muslim anger: Smoke hanging over one of the Beirut crossings blocked by relatives of kidnap victims yesterday.

Mother's suicide unleashes kidnap fury

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Nayifa Najjar Hamade looks very pretty from her photograph, a rather chic, middle class lady of 37 who worked as a secretary in the offices of *Al Safir*, one of Beirut's leading newspapers.

The pictures show her in a spotted scarf, her hair newly permed. Nayifa was the mother of a 13-year-old boy who was kidnapped nine months ago, and she never got over it.

This week she wrote a series of letters to her parents and friends, even to her son Ali, who disappeared not far from Aley back in March.

"What am I going to say to those people who want to wish me a happy new year in the next few days?" she asked in one of the handwritten messages. Then she took a bottle of insecticide and swallowed the contents.

Mrs Hamade had telephoned all the militias. She had travelled up to the presidential palace at Baabda in the hope that Mr Amin Gemayel could find her son.

Then she had simply given up hope. Her

husband had died 13 years ago. Her friends could not help her.

So she was buried on Thursday in the Chahidun cemetery, a bleak graveyard near Chahidun named after two boys killed by a shell during the 1975-76 civil war.

That might have been the last that was heard of her were it not for the families of an estimated 500 other Muslim kidnap victims who still feel very much like Mrs Hamade.

At least 50 of them, furious at Mrs Hamade's death, turned up at three of the four crossing points between East and West Beirut yesterday and blocked the roads with burning tyres and hijacked city buses. They carried photographs of Mrs Hamade and threatened, in no uncertain terms, to start kidnapping Christians in West Beirut if the Government did not find their abducted relatives.

All day yesterday motorists trying to cross their capital city queued at military checkpoints in the port while smoke

drifted up from the makeshift barricades beside the museum and two other raised highways that connect Christians and Muslims Beirut. The Christian relatives of kidnap victims have already demonstrated many times.

In all, around 2,500 abducted civilians of both religions are still officially being sought in Lebanon, although the Government holds little hope for all but 100 of them.

The Red Cross have only seen about 120 of them - men, women and children - while Mr Walid Jumbak, the Syrian militia leader and himself a Government minister, has stated with chilling finality that his men hold no living prisoners.

The fact that the authorities can still offer no hope of finding the missing civilians - indeed, the fact that their relatives can virtually cut Beirut in half at their choosing - says a lot about the Government plan which was supposed to bring security to a united capital of Lebanon.

Caputo hits back at 'arrogant' Thatcher

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina's Foreign Minister Señor Dante Caputo, has reacted sharply to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas speech to the Falkland Islands, describing it as "an act of arrogance almost typical in a small empire which is decaying."

Asked about her assertion that the wishes of the islanders will always come first, he told a local news agency that "no leader should say such things."

"Mrs Thatcher can speak about what she will do during her government, but to pretend to fix the course of history is a bit excessive," Señor Caputo said.

"Mrs Thatcher will probably try to carry out her objective for as long as she lasts in government, though it is not clear that she will achieve this," he said.

Such statements, Señor Caputo said, were almost

typical of a small empire which continues to decay.

"Argentina has a just title (to the islands), it has a legitimate government pressing for its rights, and it has history on its side," he said, adding that few countries in the world still maintained colonies.

Diplomatic sources said the acrimonious exchange would not help in efforts to normalize relations between Britain and Argentina and to start negotiations on the islands' future.

According to local sources, the Foreign Ministry was surprised at the aggressive tone of Mrs Thatcher's speech.

Argentine and British diplomats have developed personal channels of communication to discuss the Falklands, but the positions of their governments "have left them with little to talk about," the sources said.

Hackers are defeated by bank files

Hamburg (AP) - Hackers

attacking a West German computer pirates' convention ended their high-tech jamboree yesterday with a thwarted attempt to tap into an international bank computer.

The computer caper capped two days of hacking, information exchange and examination of the latest equipment in Hamburg by some 300 enthusiasts.

Citibank's West German subsidiary said in a statement from its Frankfurt headquarters that hackers from the Chaos Communication Congress had made initial contact with the bank's computer network but failed to gain access to any files.

An Associated Press reporter saw two hackers use a secret code word to call up the bank's computer. "Welcome to Citibank," flashed across their terminal screen. But the hackers failed to penetrate deeper into the bank's system.

Citybank said the hackers were shut out of its system when they failed to punch in the correct combination of codes and names to gain further access. "Access to the main system is safeguarded in a way that makes unauthorized admittance impossible," it said.

There were no reports of similar attempts succeeding during the congress.

The congress included seminars on "Laws for hackers" and "Psychic disturbances through computer misuse." The centre of activity was the Hacker Centre where about 30 computer terminals were available for use.

One 15-year-old was busy hatching a plot that would let him use the telephone number of neighbours to make long-distance calls. Two delegates from New York showed the Germans for the first time how to tap into a US computer network.

Sentence of death for land sales

Amman (Reuters) - The

Jordanian Cabinet approved death sentences yesterday on 15 people convicted of selling their property on the Israeli-occupied West Bank to Israelis.

The official Jordanian news agency, Petra, reported that the 15 had been sentenced in absentia by a special court.

Jordanian law forbids the sale of property in the occupied territories to the Israeli "enemies," considering it high treason.

● **JERUSALEM:** Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem said about 100 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank have been sentenced to death in absentia by Jordanian military courts for selling land to Israelis (Christopher Walker writes). None of the sentences has been carried out.

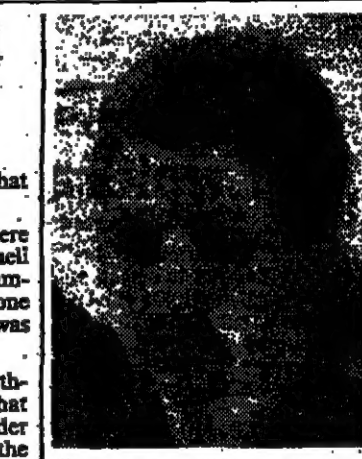
Mayor condemns brawl by Bethlehem monks

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Elias Freij, the Christian Arab Mayor of Bethlehem, yesterday strongly condemned the violence between Greek Orthodox and Armenian clergy which broke out this week during the traditional post-Christmas cleaning ceremonies in the Church of the Nativity.

"I call upon the religious authorities to respect the sanctity of the building and to find some way of sorting out their differences before next Christmas," he said. "This thuggery should never have been allowed."

At the height of the fighting inside the church on Thursday, about 50 monks wielding brooms and chairs fought each other in continuation of a long-running dispute over their rights to different parts of the building, which stands on the



spot where tradition has it that Jesus was born.

Police at the church were unable to keep order and Israeli riot police had to be summoned. During the melee, one Greek Orthodox clergyman was injured.

"The ordinary people of Bethlehem were disgusted at what took place in what they consider the most sacred church in the world," Mr Freij said. "It appears that a bunch of the monks were deliberately sent with the aim of causing trouble."

Independent observers who saw the brawl said that many of the tough-looking Greek Orthodox monks arrived equipped with brooms, apparently looking for trouble.

Singapore explains why it intends to leave Unesco

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Singapore officially confirmed yesterday that it intends to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) in a year's time, while attempting to dissociate itself from criticism of the organization.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that notice of intention to leave the controversial organization had been given on Thursday because of the "unfair" contribution levied from Singapore for the budget of the United Nations and its agencies.

The notice is due to take effect on December 31, 1985 and if it does Singapore will be the first developing nation to withdraw from Unesco.

"We are a small country with

limited resources which we need to allocate with care, bearing in mind the interests of our people," the spokesman said. But he added that should not be interpreted as criticism of Unesco's programmes or Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, its Secretary-General.

The official position here is that the UN system for assessing budget contributions, which is largely dependent on per capita income of a member country, penalizes countries like Singapore with a high growth rate.

Singapore's budget contribution had increased 100 per cent between 1965 and 1975 and a further 400 per cent since then, while the levies on some industrialized and eastern bloc nations had remained stagnant.

One 15-year-old was busy hatching a plot that would let him use the telephone number of neighbours to make long-distance calls. Two delegates from New York showed the Germans for the first time how to tap into a US computer network.

Russia cannot beat Afghans, US says

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration is convinced that Moscow will continue to pay a high price until an Afghanist settlement is negotiated providing for the withdrawal of Soviet forces and self-determination for the Afghan people.

Mr Michael Armacost, the State Department Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, said in a television interview here that he believed "time is not necessarily on the Soviet side."

In the absence of a political settlement, Moscow faced a "prolonged, protracted, savage, brutal, inconclusive and ultimately unsuccessful effort to consolidate control."

President Reagan marked the

fifth anniversary of the Soviet invasion by condemning the occupation.

He reiterated his call for the withdrawal of the 115,000 Soviet troops and said that the tragedy had been advanced repeatedly by the United Nations' withdrawal of Soviet forces, restoration of Afghanistan's independence and non-aligned status; self-determination for the Afghan people; and the return of more than three million refugees to their homes.

State Department officials estimate that there have been about 25,000 Soviet casualties during the five-year occupation. Of this total they claim that between 8,000 and 9,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed.

They also claim that more than 600 Soviet and Afghan Government aircraft have been lost since December 1979, and that Moscow has increased its manpower there by about 10,000 troops over the past year.

Mr Robert Peck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, told reporters last week that the Afghan resistance had demonstrated a staying power and an ability to fight the Russians "to a kind of uneasy stalemate."

"We see no alternative but negotiations," he said. "It is our hope that ultimately the Soviets will be persuaded that this is a losing game and that they will choose to move towards a negotiated solution."

Labour's 16 majority in Australia

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

Labour will have a 16-seat majority in the Australian House of Representatives.

Counting of votes cast in the December 1 election for the Lower House is complete.

The Senate ballots are still being counted, and the final result may not be known for 10 to 14 days.

National standings: Labour 82 seats, Liberal 45, National Party 21.

At dissolution, Labour held 75 seats in the House, the Liberals 33 and the National Party 17. Redistribution has increased seats in the Lower House from 125 in the last Parliament to 148, with increased seats everywhere except in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Officials estimate that at least 20,000 Hungarians fall into these categories of "undesirable elements". They face one to three years' compulsory labour at "re-education centres".

The legislation is inspired by sharply-increased absenteeism from work, often by people doing illicit private jobs. Every employee has his place of work and occupation marked on his identity card, and police can demand proof of regular employment. This kind of check has been rarely carried out.

At the re-education centres, the "parasites" will be on probation. Discipline will be less strict than in prisons, and some inmates will be allowed out for brief periods.

Junta officers must face civilian court

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentina's Supreme Court has cleared the way for the trial in a civilian court of nine members of the former military junta on charges of violating human rights.

In a landmark decision, the court ruled that a civilian court of appeal had not violated the Constitution last October when it took over a court-martial of the officers from the military Supreme Council because of delays.

The court rejected a motion by the defendants objecting to a civilian trial. The officers include General Jorge Videla, the former President, General Roberto Viola and General Leopoldo Galtieri.

President Alfonsín ordered the court-martial on charges of mass kidnapping, torture and secret murder shortly after he took office in December 1983.



Holiday salute: President Reagan and his wife Nancy leaving Washington to spend a new year break in California.

Ontario Tories favour leader in Reagan image

From John Best, Ottawa

The Ontario Progress Conservative Party, one of the Western world's most enduringly successful political machines, is getting ready to choose a new leader.

The man chosen at the leadership convention in Toronto on January 26 will automatically become Premier of Canada's wealthiest and most populous province, succeeding Mr William Davis, who is retiring after 14 years in the job.

Four men are running for the leadership. The favourite is Mr Frank Miller, Minister of

Industry in the Davis Cabinet, a friendly, relaxed politician who is considered the most right-wing of the candidates. He has described himself as "a Canadianized version of Ronald Reagan."

However, ideology has so far counted for little in the campaign, which has been going on since Mr Davis announced his retirement in early October.

Rightwing in the Ontario context, where the Tories first won power in 1943, means just a little bit right of centre, and comparisons with Reaganite conservatism are somewhat fanciful.

A glance at the list of issues that have been discussed in the leadership campaign tells the difference. They include rent controls - none of the candidates would abolish them - and reducing social programmes to balance the province's budget, which none would do either.

On the question of selling off the Ontario government's controversial \$650 million (£382 million) share in an oil company, one candidate is against it and three, including Mr Miller, have been non-committal.

The chief task facing any candidate is to convince Tory power brokers that he would be

able to perpetuate the image of quiet, stalwart competence that has kept the party in power for 41 years.

The power brokers include not only party strategists but a whole network of wealthy industrialists, land developers, corporate lawyers and financiers who inhabit the glass towers overlooking Toronto's Bay Street financial district.

The other candidates apart from Mr Miller are Mr Dennis Timbrell, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Larry Grossman, the provincial Treasurer, and the Attorney-General, Mr Roy McMurtry.

Bonnici keeps Mintoff's Cabinet intact

Valletta (AP) - Dr Carmelo

Mifsud Bonnici, the new Prime Minister of Malta, has retained the Cabinet of Mr Dom Mintoff, who stepped down last Saturday.

Dr Bonnici is keeping the education portfolio. The other 11 Cabinet ministers were sworn in on Christmas Eve. "We have no doubt that Mintoff thought long-term when planning the change of leadership," the pro-Government daily *L'Ora* said. Leading article, page 7

Minister quits after Bhopal disaster

Bhopal (Reuters, AFP) - The Labour Minister in Madhya Pradesh resigned yesterday after accepting moral responsibility for the disaster which killed 2,500 people here earlier this month.

Union Carbide has applied for a licence to set up a chemical plant in rural Maharashtra, on the west coast, the *Times of India* reported. The company said the products were safe and in no way related to the lethal methyl isocyanate.

Shcharansky in hospital

Jerusalem (Reuters) - Soviet officials informed the family of the jailed Jewish dissident, Dr Anatoly Shcharansky, that he is in hospital but declined to give details, his wife said here.

He is serving a 13-year sentence after being convicted in 1978 of spying for the US. His family has not received a letter from him since September. His mother was told last month that he had been transferred from a prison near Moscow to a Urals labour camp.

Radio man shot

Manila - Two men shot dead an outspoken radio commentator in the central Philippines city of Cebu after his early-morning programme, Vicente Villordon, the seventh journalist to be murdered this year.

Sent into exile

Jerusalem (Reuters) - A United States citizen and member of the ultra-nationalist Kach party, convicted of shooting at an Arab vehicle, was expelled from Israel after serving half of his three-year sentence.

Envoy recalled

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korea recalled its ambassador to Paris after France upgraded North Korea's representation and postponed indefinitely next month's visit here by the French Foreign Trade Minister, Mme Edith Cresson.

Priest expelled

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile has expelled an American Roman Catholic priest, Father Dennis O'Mara, handing out Christmas cards with an anti-torture message after Mass last Sunday.

Bombing trial

Jakarta - Six people including a former Indonesian minister, will be tried soon on charges connected with the bomb blasts which killed two and injured 16 here in October.

Missing pilots

Canberra (Reuters) - Fears are growing over the fate of two Australian pilots who disappeared about two weeks ago in the Middle East on a private flight from Britain to Australia.

Rogue herd

Dhaka - Six people have been killed and many others injured by a herd of about 20 wild elephants in south-east Bangladesh in the past three months.

More defectors

Amsterdam - A further 228 Polish passengers on two cruise ships defected this Christmas during stopovers at the West German port of Travemünde and Amsterdam.

Hong Kong ties

Taipei (Reuters) - Taiwan's Economic Planning and Development Council proposed continuing air and shipping links with Hong Kong after it is returned to China.

Cold kills 180

Delhi (AP) - A cold spell in northern India has claimed about 180 lives in 10 days, with at least 140 people dying in Bihar as temperatures dipped.

Death denied

Hanoi (AFP) - A Cambodian official here denied reports that the Prime Minister, Mr Hun Sen, had died in Moscow.

Missile deal

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan is to introduce US-designed surface-to-air Patriot missiles to bolster its defences.

Belated budget

Lisbon (Reuters) - Portugal approved a 1985 budget Bill more than two months after the official deadline.

Pigging it

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese doctors are studying the case of a 10-year-old peasant girl who prefers to live, eat and sleep with pigs, the *Canton Evening News* reported. The girl shared the pigs' swill, was suckled by sows and slept in their sty at nights.

China with

Vietnamese kill at last

Japan puts off dumping of nuclear waste

Chinese and Russians break more ice with three new pacts

Peking (Reuters) - China and the Soviet Union yesterday set the seal on improving trade ties by signing three agreements on economic, technical and scientific cooperation.

The accords were signed by Mr Ivan Arkhipov, the Soviet First Deputy Premier and the highest-ranking Kremlin leader to visit Peking in 15 years, at the end of a nine-day visit here which helped to thaw the frosty relations between the two former allies who became ideological foes in the 1960s.

They also signed accords on technical cooperation, principally Russian help in upgrading

Chinese factories, and general scientific and technological cooperation. Mr Yao Yilin, Vice-Premier, signed for the Chinese side.

Mr Arkhipov is due to leave for Moscow today after a tour which took him to showpieces of China's economic reforms in the south of the country.

Mr Arkhipov showed a keen interest in the reforms, despite Soviet press criticism of the changes, which Moscow believes could undermine communism.

Both sides have a big practical interest in developing economic contacts. The Soviet Union needs food for Siberia, while China wants Soviet technical help in upgrading factories built by Russian experts during the years of friendship in the 1950s.

The two countries have agreed to increase trade in 1985 to £1.2bn from £0.9bn this year. But the Soviet Union remains

far behind the United States, Western Europe and Japan in trade with the lucrative Chinese market.

It was not clear whether Mr Arkhipov raised Moscow's political differences with Chinese leaders, although his talks included a meeting with Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister.

The Kremlin has been worried by China's growing military contacts with Washington, underlined by a planned visit to Peking next month by General John Vessey, head of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, has said fundamental political differences with Moscow remain. The New China news agency said yesterday China had beefed up its military defences along its long and remote north-western border with the Soviet Union, improving roads and telephone links to border sentry posts.

Top Peking ideologist puts Marx in context

(Reuters) - China, worried by recent Western suggestions that it is dumping Marxism, put forward one of its leading ideologists yesterday to set the record straight.

Karl Marx's basic principles still underpinned Chinese theory, but failed to provide practical answers to some major economic problems, Mr Yu Guangyuan told foreign journalists.

Chinese thinkers and policy-makers, armed with Marx's system of thought, had now created the solutions, Mr Yu, a senior member of many Communist Party and academic bodies, said. Some of his theories were "far from enough in the issue of socialist [economic] construction."

Marx was a great revolutionary but was much weaker when it came to advice on how to rebuild a socialist economy.

It was impossible to find in his works a clear idea on practical planning, which was crucial to the smooth development of the Chinese economy. "The theory of planning had been something left for us to invent and create," Yu said.

The controversy erupted earlier this month when a front-page report in the *People's Daily* said classical Marxist ideas could not solve China's present problems.

The paper printed a correction next day, emphasizing that the sentence should have read that Marx's theories could not solve "all" China's problems.

But it was too late to stop Western press speculation, fuelled by the strong tendency in China today to apply practical rather than ideological solutions to economic problems.

Mr Yu, drawing on Hungary's theoretical justification of its sweeping economic experiments, made a distinction between the underlying system of a socialist country and the mechanisms used to fulfil its aims. All socialist countries had the same system but applied different mechanisms at different times, he said.

As a minister he was in charge of planning from 1966 to 1968. In 1973 he became president of the Congress (O) opposing Mrs Gandhi and was jailed by her during the emergency.

First Times 'prisoner' dies in India

Delhi - Ashoka Mehta, who was *The Times* very first "prisoner of conscience" died on December 10 in India where he had long been a leader of the Socialist movement (Michael Hamlyn writes). He had also been a minister under Mrs Indira Gandhi's early Prime Ministership.

Mr Mehta was born on October 24, 1911, and interrupted his early education to join the freedom movement. He was jailed by the British and stayed in prison for three years. After independence he was prominent in the Socialist movement but joined Mrs Gandhi after representing India at the United Nations.

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Nephew of Sikh leader on incitement charge

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Jasbir Singh, a nephew of the dead extremist Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, has been charged with inciting disaffection against the Indian Government among Sikh pilgrims in Pakistan last month. He is also charged with sedition and with promoting enmity between religious groups.

Mr Singh, aged 22, has ended a round-the-world odyssey with arrest in India after Britain refused him political asylum. The Press Trust of India says he is in prison in Rajasthan, where several people are being questioned in connection with Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination. United News of India says he is in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.

His arrest, in an aircraft flown to the Philippines specifically to pick him up, has allegedly led a number of leaders of the Khalistan movement, which advocates a separate Sikh state, to go underground in Britain.

MANILA: A Filipino immigration official told a judge yesterday that security men had detained Mr Singh and quietly shipped him to India at the request of the Indian embassy (AP reports).

Mr Felix Rodriguez was testifying at the hearing of a petition seeking Mr Singh's release filed by his Filipino lawyer, Mr Antonio Coronel, before he knew of Mr Singh's return to India.

British assault on Kilimanjaro - by bicycle

Nairobi - Two cousins from Cambodia are attempting the first bicycle ascent of 19,340ft Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain (Charles Harrison writes).

Dick and Nick Crane, aged 31 and 30, left their hotel near the peak in northern Tanzania on Thursday, hoping to reach the summit by New Year's Day on low-gear bicycles designed for rough terrain.

A group of African porters is helping to carry food and spare parts. They expect to ride most of the route, but will be forced to carry their bicycles in some sections - such as the soft snow below the summit.

Money raised from sponsors of the trip, which is supported by *The Sunday Times*, will go towards a water supply scheme in northern Kenya.



Botha to free Colonel Hoare

Colonel Michael "Mad Mike" Hoare, aged 65 (above), the soldier of fortune who led a group of South African mercenaries in an attempt to stage a coup in the Seychelles in 1981, is to be released from prison in South Africa under an amnesty announced by President Botha, Ray Kennedy writes.

Hoare was born in Ireland, was sentenced to an effective 10 years' imprisonment in July 1982 for air piracy. He and his group hijacked an Air India Boeing in the Seychelles to escape back to South Africa after the coup attempt failed.

A prisons department spokesman said in Pretoria that Hoare was one of 85 prisoners over the age of 65 due for release. Mrs Phyllis Hoare said she expected her husband to be freed late next month or in February.

Under the terms of the amnesty, granted as a gesture of "Christmas goodwill", first offenders who qualify for pardon will have to serve a quarter of their sentences.

Faction fights
Cape Town (Reuters) - Two Africans were killed and 17 wounded in faction fighting at Crossroads squatter camp near here, police said.

THE ARTS



Three of a strange kind: The Paris Opéra Ballet's GRCOP dancers in Michael Clark's *Le French Revolving*

Paris puzzles, then applauds

Michael Clark
Pompidou Centre

The 1984-85 season shows every sign of being not so much make-or-break year as breakthrough year for Michael Clark. The success of his own dance company, launched at Riverside in August, was only the first step. He has already followed it with his first creation for Paris: another is due there in the spring and one meanwhile for the Scottish Ballet. Not bad for a 22-year-old dancer who made his first choreography only two years earlier.

His next piece in Paris is expected to feature the three most redoubtable male stars of the Ballet de l'Opéra: Patrick Dupond, Jean Guizerix and Charles Jude, with Nureyev replacing Jude at some performances. For the work just given in the Grande Salle of the Pompidou Centre, he had to make do more modestly with the 12 dancers of the Opéra's experimental dance group, called GRCOP (Groupe de Recherche Chorégraphique de l'Opéra de Paris).

Clark calls the new work *Le French Revolving* and has put in some not too serious references to the French Revolution. Most of the characters are either *sans culottes* in Y-fronts and stockings with garters, worn by men and women alike, or *sans lèthes* thanks to costumes incorporating false heads and the activities of a gentleman wielding a large axe. The rest are apparently so poor that they have to share one jacket between two, dancing some back to back, others like a three-legged race team.

The French audience seemed not entirely sure what to make of this typical Clark irreverence, but the humour soon began to get through, helped by occasional brief sketches of spoken text that bore no very obvious relationship to the action. The music is by the Fall, a group whose songs Clark has used before: four characteristically raucous and forceful numbers from their album *The Wonderful and Frightening World of the Fall*.

I think Clark needs to find a designer who can put over his witty and uninhibited ideas more stylishly than Leigh Bowery does. Even the dresses that revealed a good idea, such as tiny black undies worn under short pink negligees to suggest (I assume) both ballet skirts and British ideas of French naughtiness, were sloppy in detail.

By now, however, there is no doubt about Clark's ability to make his dancers move in a fast, inventive free adaptation of ballet technique into a personal style. The GRCOP team looked much better dancers in this work than anything else on the programme.

There were three other creations and, the night I went, they added Merce Cunningham's *Inters II*, an adaptation made for them by the choreographer of a work his own company has shown in London. They perform its partly aleatory combinations of 64 set movements with a solemn air that misses the fun and excitement the work can potentially provide.

All the same, that was more rewarding than the contributions of three French choreographers. Regine Chopinot put a few amusing steps into *Les Rats* but they lost their sharpness by having the cast

wear floppy rubber bath-house slippers, and if there was a shape to the work it did not become apparent.

Jean-Christophe Paré made a solo for himself, *La Couleur du Secret*, in which the violet and the yellow of his costume were supposed to represent an inward struggle. So much I gather from the programme note, but it was all too muted and painfully sensitive to convey its delicate allusions. Paré moves beautifully, although too repetitiously, and without quite enough strength to justify his claims to represent a Spectre de la Rose who has already jumped through the window. Sylvio Gualda's on-stage playing of Elliott Carter's Four pieces for timpani was impressive although not very obviously relevant.

Jacques Garnier, the group's director, describes his duet *A Coeur ouvert* as a kind of X-ray of a pas de deux. Presumably that is why the two guest stars, Ghislaine Thesmar and Michael Denard, were respectively a tutu and a tunic in transparent grey. With grey streaks in their hair, too, they performed an elaborate rignarole with quotations from various famous duets (*Giselle* was the most direct and obvious one) hammed up to the Andante from Schubert's Trio in E major.

At one point a shower of artificial flowers descended upon them, and towards the end he slapped her face, which caused her to pretend to tear his ear off, leaving them both covered in stage blood. All very significant, no doubt, but the hoped-for revelation of the secret relationship between a couple accustomed to dancing together did not materialize.

When the repertoire at the Opéra and Opéra-Comique under Nureyev's direction includes work by Armitage, Childs, Cunningham, Taylor and Van Dantzig, a separate group to undertake just part of this activity seems an expensive and unrewarding luxury. Only Clark's contribution made their latest programme worthwhile - and who would not rather see what he is going to make of the all-star trio next spring?

John Percival

Television Venice has Vidal in two minds

The second part of Vidal in Venice (Channel 4) revealed the American novelist in almost as patrician and mannered a mood as the city itself, although he is not yet himself surrounded by tourists. "Venice was once a world capital", he explained as the crowds scattered in one direction or another; "now it is a sort of Disneyland." It represents a sad decline, for there was a time when only those in search of inspiration arrived here. Wagner, Browning, James, Byron - all of them came, but few of them stayed for very long, perhaps this "repository of consolations", as James called it, was barker than any of them imagined.

Vidal has come, too, but really only to lament, since this documentary was as much a disquisition on the nature of time as it was a meditation on decay. He described the carnival in order to note that the word itself means "farewell to flesh", and he displayed the palaces along the Grand Canal only to suggest that they are now "all exterior". One of them was once even "the property of the manager of The Who" - the last word pronounced with a certain asperity.

And yet Vidal has no particularly high view of the past than he has of the present, and even the great history of Venice did not escape his sardonic attention. But at the same time he understands the mystery of that past: it is this tension, between his sense of grandeur and his awareness of folly, between sentimental fascination and fastidious disgust, that animates his perceptions and renders some of them memorable. This was altogether a most substantial and interesting "travel documentary" than usual, even if it left one with the desire never to visit that drowning world again.

Peter Ackroyd

Radio New look but business as usual

A year ago this weekend, what was exercising the mind of the radio community, or at least of the BBC division of it and its listeners? Believe it or not, one thing was the rearrangement of the evening schedules on Radio 4 - the deferment of *Kaleidoscope*, the advancement of *A Book at Bedtime*, the enlargement of *The World Tonight* and its integration with *The Financial World Tonight*.

Can you remember what the pattern was before last January 3? I'm blessed if I can. Like most rearrangements this one rapidly became part of the scene and by now the Radio 4 late evening seems as if it always was the way it is. But we betide the next man who attempts to tamper with it.

As it opened, 1984 heralded another doubtful innovation for Radio 4. There was *Rollercoaster* on the horizon, which most of my colleagues and a large or at least a vocal, literate section of the audience greeted with cries of disdain. I must say, I thought and still think the censure disproportionate to the offence. Indeed, I didn't really notice an offence and nor, it seems, did that part of the audience which votes with its on-off switches.

Rollercoaster, in defiance of the switchback expectations set up by its title, actually did what was intended and evened out the morning's troughs a little.

However, there was to be another little change of which, by last New Year, nobody had warned us at all. And just as well for our peace of mind, for this was *The Colour Supplement*, which fell upon us in July like a load of junk food, brightly packaged, reeking of monosodium glutamate and virtually devoid of nourishment. Murmurs from the BBC suggested, though now perhaps with slightly less conviction, that here too the on-off switch vote showed a favourable reaction, but if it did, then I can only say that on this occasion the voters were seriously misled.

I am sorry that the Radio 4 Thursday Concert slipped away

unnoticed and apparently unwept, but it really is not possible to say of this network after David Hatch's first full year as controller that it is in anything but solid health.

Mr Hatch has more than kept his promise to provide a rich mix and the other bits of it (i.e. in addition to *The Colour Supplement*) that I have found unattractive. *Poles Apart* (confrontation gone mad), *It's Your World* (the nadir of the phone-in) - have been more than made up for by the successes. *State of the Nation*, that survey of Britain's economic and social health, was outstanding; there were countless programmes as uncommon and as absorbing as *Gumbie of a Lifetime* (about the child gambling addict), although if there is one strand I would like to nominate for development in 1985, it is the style of humour delivered back in August by *Delve Special*, David Lander's take-off of investigative radio.

Radio 3 enters 1985 longer than it was a year ago by 45 minutes and that has loosened up its evening programming far more than you might think. No more does one large-scale play or opera have to dominate it so completely. This indeed may have contributed to other and more obvious changes which are also improvements to the emergency at last of a truly healthy line of comedy (Russell Davies's *Are You Still Awake?* and Colin McLaren's *Broomhouse Reach*) is one I particularly welcome.

I also recognize the incisive qualities of the new arts review (or should it be review?), *New Premises*, while feeling sometimes that if it gets any sharper it may do itself a nasty injury, and I wonder - as part of exercising the mind for 1985 - what sort of a fist Thomas Sutcliffe, the much approved young producer of this very upmarket cocktail, will make of his new appointment as editor of the relatively plebeian *Kaleidoscope*.

But I must confess that for me the most gratifying

memories of my Radio 3 listening in 1984 were Lewis Wolpert conducting that engrossing series of conversations with eminent scientists that began in September with Francis Crick and James Watson, and the unequivocal emergence of BBC Radio Scotland's drama department during the Scottish season.

Outside these two networks, outside the BBC, what do recall? Most, perhaps, that I have learnt to know and expect well of the name of Mark Halliley, who has turned in some very pungent social documentaries for Capital Radio.

But what should really exercise the mind for listeners facing 1985? More than anything, I suspect, it may be that imminent decision on the BBC licence fee. If that goes badly wrong - and I judge by hints of public and political mood as well as by the need the BBC plainly feels energetically to justify a claim for £65, that goes wrong it might - then this time next year may bring a sadder song.

David Wade

Tomorrow's recital at the Royal Opera House by Katia Ricciarelli and Lucia Valentini-Terrani has been cancelled because of illness. There will be full refunds from the box office for ticket holders.

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Vietnamese close in for kill at last border base

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Vietnamese forces continuing their offensive against Cambodian guerrillas near the Thai border have gained a foothold at Ampil, the last base of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front still intact.

Several hundred Vietnamese soldiers in armoured vehicles have occupied positions on the edge of the lake which supplies water to Ampil less than two miles away, according to a guerrilla officer.

The Vietnamese, who have knocked out six other bases in the past six weeks, are shelling Ampil with 130mm guns from positions nine miles away.

More than 5,000 Front guerrillas are in position to resist the attack, although it is acknowledged that they are heavily outnumbered. Ampil's 23,000 civilians are sheltering along an anti-tank ditch just inside Thailand.

General Dien Del, Ampil's guerrilla commander, said he expected the battle would be

"cruel and bloody". He added: "Whatever happens, our guerrilla forces will remain in existence."

He said Vietnam wanted to wipe out the Front to weaken world support for Cambodian resistance groups. The West regards the anti-communist Front, led by Mr Son Sann, a respected former prime minister, as the most worthy of the resistance groups and most outside aid is directed towards it.

Its greatest supporters, the South-East Asian governments, fear that if the Front were eliminated, the West would soon stop helping and recognizing Cambodia's anti-Vietnamese resistance.

● NONG SAMET: Front guerrillas yesterday recaptured most of their Nong Samet camp, along the border from Ampil, after four days of fierce fighting, a Thai Army commander said (Reuters reports).

Major-General Salya Sripen said the guerrillas had to fight for every scrap of land but now controlled three-quarters of the sprawling camp. Vietnamese troops attacked it on Christmas Day and captured most of it.

About 3,000 guerrillas launched a series of coordinated counter-attacks early yesterday, he said.

International relief officials estimated that 40 Cambodians were killed and 70 wounded. A guerrilla spokesman in Bangkok said 23 Vietnamese were killed.

Japan puts off dumping of nuclear waste

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan has shelved a plan to dump nuclear waste in the South Pacific until it gets approval from countries in the region.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, has had second thoughts about the proposal to dump 25,000 drums of low-level radioactive waste after months of opposition from the South Pacific islands and New Zealand. The waste would have cast a shadow over his visit to Fiji, Papua-New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand next month, in which nuclear issues are going to feature strongly.

However, government sources indicate that Mr Nakasone has not given up the idea of dumping waste in the Pacific, and he will seek approval from regional governments during his visit.

The drums were originally to have been sunk at a specific point 560 miles south-east of Tokyo Bay.

Pretoria denies Machel claim on rebel arms

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa is urgently studying the text of a speech by President Samora Machel of Mozambique, in which he accused it of continuing to "sustain, develop, equip, infiltrate and supply" the Renamo rebels.

The rebels claim they are operating within two and a half miles of the capital, Maputo, and have blocked road and rail links to the city.

Mr Machel's categorical charges are seen as the most serious challenge so far to Pretoria's bona fides since the signing of the Nkomati accord nine months ago.

Mr R. F. ("Pik") Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said a press conference that South Africa has scrupulously complied with both the spirit and the letter of the accord but said he will not respond to the Mozambique leader's accusations until he has studied the full text of his speech.

He said there would be further discussions soon "to see

what extent we can be of assistance to each other to bring about the cessation of hostilities in Mozambique."

In the past three months Mr Botha has travelled to Israel, West Germany and undisclosed East African countries on missions believed to have been concerned directly with efforts to stop the supply of equipment to Renamo.

In Maputo, the Government-owned newspaper *Noticias* claimed that local journalists were told by a South African National Party MP that supporters of Dr Andries Treurnicht's ultra-right Conservative Party have been responsible for breaches of the accord.

It has long been suspected in Maputo that elements within the South African Defence Force which support the Conservative Party have been clandestinely aiding Renamo. A Conservative Party spokesman said the party viewed the newspaper's claims in a very serious light.



SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Trump this if you can

The special significance of 1985 is the bicentenary of cricket reports in *The Times*. It has reported other things, of course, but nothing so important as cricket. To celebrate the anniversary Marcus Williams has been burrowing among the archives and emerged bearing great armfuls of historic cricket match reports. Unquestionably the most intriguing is that of a match featuring two Gentlemen of Middlesex against a farmer named Trump, and his dog. *The Times* reports that huge sums of money were won and lost on the match. Trump's side won because of the dog's superior fielding; it ran up with the bowler, charged the batsman, collected the ball and returned it to his master with alarming promptness. Was Trump to go on to commit some misdeemeanour, be transported to Australia and found the dynasty that produced the great V. T. Trumper, hammer of the English? *The Times* is silent on the matter. The report, with many others, will appear in Williams' book, titled *Double Century: 200 years of cricket in The Times*, to be published in 1985. He cannot tell me if the dog batted.

Love all

Two bands of Yorkshiremen have been fighting for the right to call themselves "Yorkshire Cricket Lovers". The final result was a draw. Phil Carrick's benefit committee will be known as "Yorkshire Cricket Lovers Society", while a group of businessmen seeking to overthrow the Yorkshire committee will call themselves "Yorkshire Cricket Devotees".

Point taken

Football press conferences often have their little moments of tension, but in Tanzania they eschew the scintillating look or the snapped reply. When the national team coach, British-born Geoffrey Hudson, caught sight of journalist Jonas Mwasumbi at a press conference he shouted "You're a liar! You're a liar!", seized Mwasumbi by the throat and repeatedly punched him until the two were pulled apart. Hudson later explained that he had been in something of a rage.

At the double

After my paragraph about the race up and down the 13,353 foot volcanic Mount Cameroon, Keith Lawson writes to report his own record, set in 1956. Mr Lawson, then of the Cameroon Development Corporation, set out to beat the existing record of 10 hours and murdered it, going up and down the mountain (with a bearer) in just under six hours. He wonders if anyone has since done better.

First hurdle

National Hunt courses are having difficulty finding the punters these days. Now the punters could find it hard to find National Hunt courses. Taunton race course officials have economized by telling the AA they can no longer pay for direction signs to the course.

Legless

Shinty players say their sport is the toughest in Britain - so tough that one of their stars, Sandy McKay, cannot find anyone to insure his right leg. "They all say they will insure the rest of me, but not the leg," said McKay. He had an operation on the knee six years ago after he received an injury - playing football.

That follows

A spot of Irish logic from Paddy McGowan, former manager of the League of Ireland side Finn Harps. McGowan was suspended by the Football Association of Ireland for six months for arguing with an official - and was promptly fired by his club Phoenix, he said. "The only good thing about this is that the suspension means nothing now I am sacked."

● Brentford football club have paid transfer fees for their two new players to Her Majesty. They bought Steve Butler and George Torrance out of the army.

Wes's way

Senator Wesley Hall, the former West Indian fast bowler now managing the West Indian tour of destruction in Australia, and recently sacked as a brewery manager for devoting too much time to the game, is considering a new career as the players' busman. He is proud of his record as team manager ("I have achieved what I wanted - the eradication of bad management") and believes his talents could extend to wheel-dealing. He explained his policy for frustrated young players kept out of the side by the stars: "I persuaded them that to take a towel out to Viv Richards or to dry Clive Lloyd's socks is as good as scoring 20 or 30."

Generation gap

Corfu plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Corfu cricket in 1985. The MCC have been invited to tour the island, a commemorative book is being produced by the Anglo-Corfu Cricket Committee, and space has been promised by *The Cricketer* magazine. Now research reveals that the Greek islanders started to play cricket not in 1835, as thought, but in 1855. Probably, never mind; they have decided to go ahead with the celebrations anyway. Expert observers report that the incident encapsulates all the heady charms of Corfu cricket.

Young Miles' Almanac

January

Snow. Ice. After a pile-up on the M1, police say: "They were driving like maniacs. No, worse - they were driving like police cars." The National Union of Mineworkers transfers its funds to the Natwest, Port Stanley. The Receiver sets off in pursuit. Turn of events out again at Yorkshire County Cricket Club, where at a general meeting Geoff Boycott is created General Boycott. Outside the club, pickets clash with police, ending in a draw. Ronald Reagan offers to go to Moscow for peace talks. It is pointed out to him that the US and the USSR are, in fact, at peace.

February

Ice. Snow. After a pile-up on the M1, police admit: "We were driving like maniacs." The Association of Mentally Hyperactive objects strongly to the constant use by the police of the word "maniac". "This is the sort of thing that brings lunacy into disrepute," says a spokesman. Just as the Receiver is about to reach the Falklands, the NUM switch their money to the Bank of Poland, in Warsaw. The Receiver hitches a lift on a passing Polish lawyer. Mrs Thatcher introduces a law which will enable all future laws to contain advertising. Mr Reagan offers to go to Moscow if Mr Chernenko comes to Washington. It is pointed out to him that this will mean their passing each other somewhere over France.

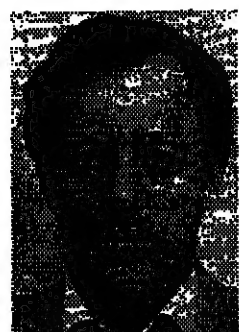
March

Hail. Slush. After a pile-up on the M1, police say: "They were driving like people suffering from a temporary but quite normal and harmless period of stress." A spokesman for the Mentally Hyperactive says: "That's better." The Coal Board announces that large thefts of coal are being made from inactive pits, and threatens to switch its deposits of coal abroad. Nostalgia undergoes another revival in the USA (with the release of *The Glenn Miller Story*) and in the USSR (with the revival of Stalin). The English cricket team in India ask for political asylum.

April

Sun. Snow. Ice. Mrs Thatcher introduces the Liverpool Abolition and Glen Gowie Bill. The object, she explains, is twofold: firstly, to enable Parliament to disband the troublesome city of Liverpool and secondly, to sell larger quantities of Glen Gowie, the ultimate in malt

Remember New Year's Day 1984?
We don't either, but the vaguely recalled sense of foreboding was clearly misplaced. Emerging unscathed from Room 101, Miles Kington thinks it should have been reserved for 1985



whisky because it's so smooth and yet has got so much character. And has become the first company to buy advertising in an Act of Parliament. Uproar in the House. At an extraordinary general meeting of the Yorkshire CCC, Geoff Boycott is created Extraordinary General. Reagan proposes collaboration with the USSR, initially to invade Nicaragua together. It is pointed out to him that this would be the act of a madman.

May

Cloud. Rain. Damp. The Mentally Hyperactive complain that to describe Reagan as a madman brings madness into disrepute. The Receiver finally reaches Poland in his trailer, only to find that the NUM have transferred all their funds to the People's Bank of Afghanistan, in Kabul. The USSR continue their Stalin nostalgia season with the issue of the *Joe Stalin Story*. It tells how handleader Joe Stalin was always looking for the perfect sound for dancing, which he achieves mostly by shooting any saxophonist who doesn't fit in. The Cup Final is won by an English team. Ronald Reagan proposes to counter the Stalin cult by rehabilitating the memory of Senator McCarthy.

June

Haze. Warm mud. Couple of nice sunsets. Reagan's proposals condemned by the Mentally Hyperactive as the sort of thing that gives commonsense a bad name. The BBC is granted a £65 licence fee on condition it introduces advertising. A new British car is introduced, which goes no faster than 30 mph and is made almost entirely of foam rubber: the Ford Siesta. The Receiver's Punitive Expedition to Afghanistan sets off. Ronald Reagan proposes to cut the enormous cost of nuclear forces by asking Richard Branson to start cut-price bombing sorties to Moscow.

July

Hot. Muggy. Stuffy. There is a pile-up of Ford Siestas on the M1 involving more than 30 of them, but no one is hurt as they all bounce off each other. Police say: "They were driving like clowns." Association of Circus Humourists welcomes this statement and pours bucket of water over Chief Constable. Stalin revival continues in Russia with production of new musical *Not Tonight, Joseph*. Mrs Thatcher announces that the cost of the overseas expedition to Afghanistan by the Receiver has already risen to £3m, and it is still only in Baluchistan.

August

Warm. Wet. Soggy. Mrs Thatcher introduces into Parliament the new Johnson's Adult Powder and Herbal After-Shave Bill, the first parliamentary Act in history which contains all advertising and no legislation. Uproar. It is passed by a big, and very sweet-smelling, majority. There is a pile-up of clowns' cars on the M1, witnesses say that the cars all fell to bits before they hit each other. A police spokesman says: "That's showbiz". President Reagan proposes to reduce the budget deficit by starting a \$100 billion libel suit against Chernenko for all the things he has been saying about him.

September

Windy. Dry. Chilly. A pile-up on the M4 but nobody notices as the motorway is shrouded in smoke from stubble burning for three weeks. The English County Championship is won by an English team. A million Britons leave the country but agree to come back two weeks later. A police spokesman says: "They were behaving like holidaymakers." Mrs Thatcher announces that at last the Commons have received commercial backing and in the new session they will be renamed the Satchi Parliament. Uproar. Fierce fighting is reported from Afghanistan, where the Re-

ceiver's Task Force has bought its way to within 100 miles of the capital.

October

Mild. Dull. Drizzly. In Russia, Stalin's corpse goes on public display simultaneously in 42 major cities. In Yorkshire, at the annual general meeting of the County Club, Extraordinary General Boycott is reduced in rank to Annual General. Admission of Spain and Portugal to the EEC is held up after the discovery of an unsuspected British football supporter mountain. The National Coal Board announces that it has completed the transfer of all productive coal-faces abroad, and the miners' strike is *de facto* over, as there are no longer any British miners. Ronald Reagan suggests sending back Solzhenitsyn to Russia, as a gesture of goodwill.

November

Dark. Damp. Dreary. Mrs Thatcher announces in Parliament that in future all pile-ups on Britain's motorways will be commercially sponsored, and that the first one will be the Superior Sticky Plaster crash on Dec 1. Uproar. The Receiver's Task Force enters the outskirts of Kabul after talking its way through three Russian divisions, only to find that NUM funds have been transferred to Moscow, at Barclay's branch on New Stalin Street. The force hitches a lift with a Russian tank. A Ford Siesta owner makes legal history by arguing successfully that as his inflated car was floating above a yellow line, he was not illegally parked. Nicaragua invades the USA, encountering little resistance.

December

Cold. Dark. Horrible. The Superior Sticky Plaster M1 Disaster is a fiasco, as in perfect driving conditions all the vehicles miss each other. Uproar. Mrs Thatcher promises to resign, as soon as she finds a sponsor. The Receiver reaches Barclay's Bank in Moscow and is arrested for queue-barging. He is transferred to Siberia for psychiatric examination. At a Yorkshire County Club committee meeting, Geoff Boycott is replaced by a committee. Ronald Reagan suggests bombing Texas, as that is where most Nicaraguans now are. Most states think this is a good idea. Foreign miners go on strike over having to mine British coal. Ronald Reagan suggests going straight on to 1986. It is the first good idea he has had all year.

Woodrow Wyatt

A relationship to be cherished

Mrs Thatcher's Washington stop-over showed that the special relationship not only exists but gets results. The clarification that research would continue on Star Wars weapons but that they would not be produced or deployed without prior negotiation with the Russians, in accordance with existing treaties, was of as much interest to Americans as it was to Europeans. The problem has ceased to be immediate: 20 years seems to be the minimum period for the preparation of these expensive weapons, which may or may not be a good idea.

There are Jewish, black, Irish and various other ethnic and regional votes to be canvassed in American presidential elections. There is no British vote to be specially solicited because, despite the dissimilarities, America is based on a British culture and approach to life and politics. The British influence is all pervasive. The USA is a much more committed *de facto* member of the Commonwealth than India or the other non-Anglo-Saxon members. That most of the latter play cricket and the USA does not is an accident of the Civil War when the troops on either side, unable to prepare cricket pitches, developed the old English game of rounders into baseball.

The American parliamentary system is the same as ours with one great improvement. The founding fathers did not want their equivalent of George III interfering in parliament and would not allow his cabinet ministers to sit in it. So they put the president in the White House and excluded the members of his government from Congress, thus severely diminishing the patronage he would have on Capitol Hill. We went the other way, putting George III (in the shape of the modern prime minister), with the power to choose the cabinet and dispense patronage, directly into Parliament, while removing from the head of state all checks against the prime minister. Hence the flaccidity of the Commons compared with Congress.

No matter how great the floods of immigrants into the USA, the British ethos has transformed them all. Loss of confidence as we declined in world power has blinded us to this immutable fact. Sometimes we have been deluded by our own austere, five bows of anti-Americanism into believing that we no longer count in the USA. Fortunately Americans are more generous to our faults than we are to theirs. It is possible that not even a Kinnock government one-sidedly destroying British nuclear weapons and removing American nuclear bases could entirely wreck the special relationship. Americans would wait patiently for the return of a more sensible British government.

Without the logistical help of the USA, the Falklands might well have been a disaster, not a triumph. The USA, put its important physical and political interests in Central and South America below its instinctive special feelings for Britain. In 1956 we insulted the Americans by not telling them that we were about to launch the mad attack on Egypt. After the shock of the initial affront the USA did its best to salvage what it could for its temporarily deranged ally.

At least Britain was informed about the proposed American operation in Grenada. A misplaced pride prompted the British government's critical observations, to which Washington reacted with tolerance rather than with anger. The greatest danger to world peace would be if the Russians thought that the special relationship was wearing out. Mrs Thatcher is wise to keep nourishing it frequently and publicly so that it remains beyond doubt.

Colin Webb

L'eau life but no sparkle

There are two and a half possible temporal reasons for the fact that suddenly mineral water has become *de rigueur* on almost every dining table. Like the stuff itself each is refreshingly attractive.

The first is the age. We are so devoid of interest in alcohol *per se* that we now reach thankfully for something without it on health grounds? Could it be that man is at last turning away from the water of life (that too often means death), to pure water. Malvern, Highland, Ashbourne, Perrier, or whatever. Are we getting back to natural things in their purest healthiest form? Wishful thinking that. We have had lots of healthy steps forwards but always each is accompanied by two steps back in the search for natural healthy taste, if that is what it is, society has also moved backwards with the current interest in drugs. Gassy gurgling water does not sit well with sniffing and snoring.

The second, more likely, is not the age but my age. It is the awkward time (but then what age of man is not in between ages?) between later youth and, er, middle age. And mineral water seems an in-between drink. It comes after the sherry and before the port. In that slot it appears as well as and often instead of the wine.

And this is an in-between time of year, of course. Between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, we are between broken resolutions and unkeepable ones. Between gluttony and a diet, between calendars, between getting of gifts and giving thanks, between the nativity and the slaughter of the innocents, between summer holidays, between longer stays.

Mind you, I doubt that "the in-between drink" is the stuff of advertising slogans. There was a sweet you could eat between meals, but who remembers which that one was? The drink you can take between proper drinks sounds as likely to be successful a campaign as the cigarette to smoke when you are alone (on the grounds that with it

you were not alone; but those who flashed his packets soon felt stranded by the campaign and the cigarettes soon were too.)

People who are upwardly mobile are all about getting there, not being where they are now, stuck (temporarily) between groups. The whole point of the young upwardly mobile crowd is that they are on the move and coming, not in-between and sticking. Caught between peer groups? Then you should drink... Scrub that one too.

And we of an, er, uncertain age, want to be in one of the seven ages of man, not one of the ageless people like the stateless, stuck in tents between homes, refugees, unwanted, passportless. The sort of old-fox who gets vests and socks for Christmas presents not butch after shave stuff. No, scrub the in-between association entirely and let's get on with getting older quickly.

The half reason is that dreadful excuse for every temporal thing: it is the fashion. After the kir and the pink champagne, we are into sparkling H₂O as the drink because everyone else has it, never mind what the stuff tastes like? Not so; even the exalted art gallery man at his private lunch table proffered the green bottle with a warm enthusiasm that paid no lip service to fashion: "No meal seems complete without it," he would say on these days. It is so civilized. (He is in-between too, but according to my *Whose Who?* he is in-between middle age and, er, graceful seniority.)

It comes back to my age then, and I suppose one goes off the grape when one thinks of its descriptions at this sensitive personal age. "Fullbodied", "warm", "ready to lay down", "vintage", "heady stuff". Now I would have settled for that sort of association half a generation ago; today I prefer to be associated with the stuff that is "sparkling", "natural", "pure", "cleansing", "delicious", "enlivening", "mixes wonderfully", "wholesome". And undeniably *delectable d'import* public. Put me the green bottle at once. Oh and the red one too please. I've just noticed that the fine print says you can add it to wine.

From bow to baton: Michael Binyon on Menuhin's latest venture



A musical tour de force in three acts: aged 12, soon after making his debut as a soloist; with Sir Thomas Beecham when a teenage international celebrity, and (right) rehearsing the Bonn Opera orchestra in Mozart's *Titus*

On safari, with strings attached

Bonn

Few musicians are as celebrated or instantly recognizable. For almost 60 years audiences have watched the narrow, sensitive face poised over his instrument, the serenity of expression belying his passionate interpretation. But on Christmas Day a glittering audience in Bonn's opera house saw only the back of his head. For Yehudi Menuhin was making his debut as a conductor and musical director of opera.

The magnificent performance of Mozart's last opera, *Titus*, was one of the year's jewels in Bonn. For Yehudi Menuhin it was an achievement of peculiar personal significance. Not only was it his own tribute to a composer who has been a major force in his life since his father took him to Salzburg half a century ago, but also an instantaneous attempt to rehabilitate an opera that has almost disappeared from public performance.

"Nothing really happens in *Titus*", he said. "But it is perfect theatre, uniting philosophy and morality. We actually run through the whole gamut of human feelings, from the lowest to the highest, from terror to safety, from the joy of companionship to final loneliness. The drama is never lost, but Mozart never gives up the elegant form."

Titus also marks a change in Menuhin's own life. He has conducted before - both at his Bath festival, and in regular yearly engagements in Berlin. He has also produced Mozart opera before. But never has he had such complete control of a production, going over every word and gesture with the producer, rehearsing every morning and evening for five weeks. And never in 60 years has he travelled so long in one place without staying - not even at home in London.

"It's like an adventure for me - like a businessman who's collected

books on Africa finally going on a safari. Well, not quite, because I do know the animals - I have played the music. But it's wonderful being part of a complete conception, making the most glorious music. It's so different from the life of a violinist, where he is totally responsible for himself alone."

That life which began at the age of eight in San Francisco on March 25 1925 is one of extraordinary strain, and a long list of hotel rooms, travelling, and fascinating invitations turned down because of engagements booked two years in advance. He knows the sacrifices his wife Diana (who gave up her career as a ballet dancer) has had to make. Although now he feels at home in most major cities, it has been an endless succession of brief stays - "and perhaps I'm getting weary of that."

By contrast Bonn, of all places, has captivated Menuhin. It offers tranquillity, regularity, the chance to meet diplomats and statesmen, psychologists and artists. He has been entertained by all those with whom he has affinities or family connections - and for the first time since his debut in Dresden and Berlin, in 1929, he has had a chance to live among Germans.

They have been more than honoured. President von Weizsäcker, former President Carstens, Chancellor Kohl and Willy Brandt have all invited or met him. Bonn has asked him to sign the golden

book and *Die Welt* have published a lengthy front-page interview. As a Jew, the son of Hassidic Russian immigrants to America, Menuhin has thought much about Germany. After 1933 he refused to play here because of the persecution of Jews, but he returned immediately after the war, a gesture that has never been forgotten (though one that was misinterpreted by ardent Zionists). He was the first person to play German music in Jerusalem after the war, and he has been much struck by Germans' repentance for the country's Nazi past.

"Today's Germany is civilized because it is working off penance, and penance is a very healthy human condition," says Menuhin. "I wish this realization existed everywhere; and that more people regretted what is happening in the world today - in Ethiopia, in Vietnam, and where next?"

Yehudi Menuhin has never flinched from the responsibility of an artist and public figure to speak out. Although suspicious of many protest groups he will sign letters and perform concerts for those organizations he admires, such as Amnesty International and Greenpeace. He refuses, even at the cost of embarrassment and upset, to be tactful or quiet when he sees wrong. The Russians could not get over his praise for Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov in a public lecture in Moscow; they refused his recent request to give concerts in Moscow to honour

David Oistrakh 10 years after his death. And when the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, a keen art collector, met him recently at an exhibition of anti-Nazi artists and remarked, "Modern art is never understood," he replied discomfitedly: "But it doesn't have to be persecuted."

"It would have been so easy to keep quiet in Russia. But I just couldn't." He feels strongly about terrorism, whether in St James's Square or against Arabs on a bus in Jerusalem.

It is partly the sense of public responsibility that lies behind Menuhin's formation seven years ago of "Live Music Now," a workshop for young musicians who play where mostly there is never music - in prisons, mental hospitals and barracks. Last year they gave more than 1,000 concerts in Britain, and the scheme has spread to four other countries. But as important to the musicians is the invaluable experience of making music for an audience. During the war Yehudi Menuhin gave more than 500 concerts for soldiers in hospitals, at the front and even on the remote Alentian Islands.

This - and his violinist's school - is where much of his infectious enthusiasm now lies. He is by no means abandoning the instrument he has probably played longer, making more recordings - some 500 in all - than anyone else. But already he talks wistfully of these past five weeks' stability, of the excitement of working with Maria Francesca Sicilian, the producer, and of course, of Mozart. "Like Shakespeare, Mozart cannot be wrong, because he has the compassion, love, feeling - even for crime - that is the key to human emotion. There is nothing wilful, artificial, synthetic. Mozart takes you into the inner core of a person, and it is really wonderful to work with him." No wonder Menuhin's *Titus* seems set to become a cultural landmark for Bonn.

صكرا من الاصل



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A HOUSE STILL DIVIDED

Public attention lately has been concentrated primarily on the affairs of the Government and of the Conservative Party. Apart from its last unseemly party conference, which was virtually taken over by Mr Scargill, Labour has claimed little attention. Even the comparatively minor quarrels in the Conservative Party over ways and means of dealing with unemployment or local government have understandably loomed larger than the much more significant divisions within the Labour Party about its fundamental political aims. That, however, is in some respects a pity since, for all Dr David Owen's brave prediction that the Alliance parties will hold the parliamentary balance at the next general election, the present evidence still suggests that Labour will be Mrs Thatcher's principal challenger when the time comes.

The state of the Labour Party therefore remains of fundamental public importance, and the noises from the left this week threatening to challenge Mr Neil Kinnock's leadership next year are a significant guide to the continuing crisis of identity which still unites the party for government in a parliamentary democracy.

For what is Mr Kinnock's offence? It is not, apparently, that he is thought to be weak on traditional socialist policies. Nor is it that he is prepared to support his deputy, Mr Roy Hattersley, in an attempt to reverse the Labour Party's present commitment to remove all US nuclear bases from Britain. He is not. What has stung the hard left, in and out of parliament, is Mr Kinnock's failure to

give full support to Mr Scargill's strike in the coal mines. Mr Kinnock has supported the miners' case over pit closures (it would be virtually impossible for a Labour leader to do otherwise) but he has not only condemned violence on the picket lines but has also failed to conceal his reservations about the way in which Mr Scargill has conducted the strike. For this reason there is talk of a hard left challenge to Mr Kinnock's leadership next year, probably by a lesser figure than Mr Tony Benn, as a warning to Mr Kinnock rather than in any hope of unseating him.

It is highly illuminating that the trigger for this attack on Mr Kinnock should be his rather gingerly refusal to underwrite Mr Scargill's methods or be associated with them. What this reveals is that the essential struggle in the Labour Party is still between those wings which accept parliamentary democracy as having precedence over what the hard left calls party democracy, and the fundamentalist elements which pin their hopes on extra-parliamentary action and pressures of which Mr Scargill's strategy is the epitome. Here is a union trying to destroy an elected government by action outside parliament, and Mr Kinnock is not prepared to take its side without qualification.

In this struggle within the Labour Party, there is now an alliance between the soft left, of which Mr Kinnock himself is the principal representative, and the centre right of the party, and this should be strong enough to ensure Mr Kinnock's safety if there is a challenge to his leadership. But the fact that such

a challenge is contemplated is itself indicative of what troubles lie ahead of him.

On a tactical level, such an attempt to constrain if not unseat Mr Kinnock will once more illuminate the divisions in the Labour Party about what it really stands for. More deeply, it will show that if Labour were to gain power, a government under Mr Kinnock would once again be faced by the implacable hostility of the party's fundamentalist left which is never prepared to compromise and is never willing to learn a lesson from the electorate about what the public wants. It is prepared to learn nothing from the years of Mrs Thatcher's government about people's attachment to as much personal responsibility as they can get and their dislike of the imperatives of socialist statism.

As it is, Mr Kinnock is having to pay a high price for the alliance between the soft left and the moderates. There is, for instance, no evidence to suggest that the soft left would ever countenance a modification of the party's present defence policy. There is little evidence to suggest that the soft left is prepared to learn anything significant from its two defeats at Mrs Thatcher's hands, whether over economic or social policy. Mr Kinnock is sustained against attack from the unparliamentary left by an alliance of soft left and moderates which itself lacks much common ground. Mrs Thatcher has had an uncomfortable end to 1984 but when attention is for a moment diverted to the Labour Party its dilemmas are quickly seen to be much more profound.

SHARPER LEFT IN MALTA

The people of Malta, now under the guidance of a new prime minister, are looking forward to 1985 with mixed feelings. So too are those abroad whose future is for one reason or another intertwined with that of this small but eventful island.

Gone, at the age of 68, is Mr Dom Mintoff whose ebullient personality has dominated Maltese politics, for better or worse, virtually since the Second World War. In his place now stands Mr Mifsud Bonnici, his adoptive political heir, who in the end has inherited a deeply divided nation.

There have been times during the last 35 years when the retirement of Mr Mintoff would have been greeted with relief by a number of governments, most notably the British. Nato officials still recall how their own Secretary-General Dr Joseph Luns, after offering to mediate in the Anglo-Maltese talks over basing facilities, was soon reduced to shouting and banging on the table, by the uncompromising little premier from Valetta.

Mr Mintoff himself still sometimes refers to the true date of Malta's independence (officially 1964) as being 1979 when the Royal Navy finally left Grand Harbour. But then last year he was taking on East and West together at the European Security Conference in Madrid, forcing the superpowers into unholy alliance by his refusal to come to terms.

At home his dictatorial approach has been if anything more controversial. Intolerance of criticism has led him and

some of his Labour party supporters down dubious paths. The Times of Malta offices were burned down in one unfortunate episode, while his uncertain victory in the last election was won only after boundary changes which exposed him to the charge of gerrymandering.

Only this autumn the feud between Church and State over fee-paying Catholic schools erupted in several ugly incidents when a mob of shipyard workers ransacked the archbishop's palace and law courts in Valetta. The Labour party has no cause to love the Church which some years ago preached against Mr Mintoff from the pulpits with most unsavory zeal. But these recent excesses have done him and his party no good.

They are especially regrettable because Mr Mintoff had undoubtedly done much that is good for the people. State pensions and medical care together with a minimum wage have helped raise the standard of living for the poor who had previously had to rely upon charity from the rich and powerful Church. His administration has been sometimes referred to as the government of social services.

Moreover those who once sought the downfall of the infuriating maverick of the Western Mediterranean are wondering if in six months' time they might be longing for his return. For Mr Bonnici does not only look likely to be grey and humourless if hard-working successor. More important is the fact that his committed left-wing orthodoxy represents a significant

shift from the idiosyncratic "soft" socialism of the Mintoff era.

It was Mr Bonnici who as Minister of Education led the attack on Catholic schools and who, according to his critics, inspired some of the violence which occurred. It was certainly Mr Mintoff himself who eventually had to step in and patch up the present truce between Church and State which has allowed him to "make way for a younger man" - as he puts it. Even Dom Mintoff knew in the end when to settle. Does Mr Bonnici?

Never himself elected - he was co-opted to the government by his mentor - he has already made ominous noises about cancelling the election in two years' time in the event of "foreign interference." On the other hand he is now handling an electorate which flexed its political muscle over the schools row and might be prepared to do so again. Malta remains a deeply Catholic country.

He must also feel personally insecure. Longer-serving members of the Mintoff Cabinet must have fancied their chances of the succession. For that reason no doubt he has not so far risked a reshuffle of posts - and for that reason too is unlikely to abandon the policies of his predecessor - for the time being anyway. Malta watchers in the West must hope that by the time he feels more confident, Mr Bonnici will have to start thinking of the next election and that the people will make sure that he goes to the polls on cue.

WILL PEKING CHOP THE CHOPSTICKS?

Another shock for the Chinese, more unsettling perhaps even than last month's official proclamation of the fallibility of Marx. In one of its articles with hints on home lifestyle this week, the People's Daily suggests that chopsticks are outmoded. Marx has held sway in Chinese affairs for no more than 40 years, but chopsticks have been in general use for at least 2,000 years. "We should prepare more knives and forks, buy more plates and sit around the table to eat Chinese food in western style," says the paper, and no less a person than Hu Yaobang simultaneously promulgated the same doctrine to an audience of peasants, probably resigned by now to any imaginable upheaval.

The campaign really seems to be directed less at chopsticks than at the genial old custom of everybody shovelling their food out of the same dish, with consequent risk of cross-infection with hepatitis and other ailments. No doubt there is sound hygienic principle behind this. But chopsticks, though requiring some dexterity to deploy, are clean, efficient and graceful in themselves, as their vernacular name, *kuai-tze*, "the speedy ones", implies ("chop", too, has the same significance in pidgin).

The way they are scornfully dragged into the argument suggests undue readiness to fall

under the spell of western practices - an attitude far removed from the more typical spirit of national self-confidence expressed in the second century BC by the poet and statesman Jia Yi, who proposed a chain of restaurants along the empire's northern border, "each with a first-rate menu", to mollify and beguile the voracious nomadic barbarians with the irresistible charms of a cuisine already ages old. Unfortunately this most civilised of projected defence systems was never tested. Instead a less benign regime started work on the Great Wall a generation or two later - an alternative whose very imperfect success suggests that Jia Yi's idea might have been better.

It may be ill-considered for the Chinese to move away from chopsticks at a period when their use must be more widespread among the barbarians in Europe and America than at any time in the past. The Japanese, whose relationship with things western is still more complex and anxious, are growing concerned that the knife and fork are beginning to cause the elegant art of the sticks (*hashi* in Japanese) to fall into disuse there. A report released by the Japanese Ministry of Education in May disclosed that fewer than half the country's elementary pupils claimed to be competent in managing chopsticks. Even

adults are often seen resorting to the ignominious "dog-style" (*inu-gui*), with chin in bowl to avoid cascades of noodles in the lap, if deprived of western cutlery.

This worries the Japanese very much. The Tokyo police department has introduced a crash course in chopstick etiquette for recruits, on the grounds that "using the hands is good for the brain." Many Japanese scholars claim that the discipline of cornering the individual rice-grain with the tips has fostered a special deftness of hand and eye in their nation. Commenting on the government report, Professor Yatagai of Keihin Women's University asserted: "Some people even think that *hashi* are responsible for the dexterity and resourcefulness that helped bring about Japan's economic boom." Perhaps all the achievement of the country's economic miracle could be dissipated by a new generation of westernized butter-fingers - a reflection that ought to give rise to thought in Peking as well as in Tokyo. It is certainly one that casts a new light on all that accidental browsing and shooing so merrily carried on in Chinese restaurants all over Britain, not uncommonly with the proper tools, over the bamboo shoots, Peking duck and the crab claws in ginger. School catering services, please note.

Rationale of US defence study

From Air Vice-Marshal S. W. B. Menaul

Sir, In his article, "Shoot down this perilous idea" (December 19), Lord Kennet adds his voice to the growing number of ill-informed critics of the United States strategic defence initiative. Most of those who have so far ventured an opinion on the concept of defending against attack by ballistic missiles have demonstrated a remarkable lack of knowledge of what SDI is all about, the technology that makes such a defence system possible and how it could contribute to stability and a reduction in the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers.

Lord Kennet tells us that "Mr Reagan, without consulting his defence secretary or his scientific establishment, ordered a great research programme to put nuclear weapons, and thus nuclear deterrence, out of date by constructing an invisible shield in the heavens." What utter nonsense. He did nothing of the sort.

After detailed study of various proposals submitted by at least three different study groups between 1980 and 1982, the President set up the Defence Technologies Study Group under the direction of Dr James Fletcher to examine and report on the feasibility of a strategic defence system. The Fletcher committee reported to the President in November, 1982, and four months later, after further study and discussions with the best scientific brains in the United States, the strategic defence initiative was established under the direction of General James Abrahamson.

The SDI is simply a research programme into a new concept of non-nuclear defence against ballistic missiles, whether nuclear or conventionally armed. The best scientific brains in the United States believe that an effective BMD (ballistic missile defence) system can be developed, but whether or not it would be deployed would depend on the outcome of discussions with the Soviet Union on the future military uses of space.

We spend millions on surface-to-air missiles and manned interceptor aircraft to defend against manned bombers. Ballistic missiles and manned bombers are simply different means to achieve the same objective, i.e. the attack of targets in enemy territory with explosive warheads. Missiles travel through space on their trajectories to their targets; bombers travel through the air on a similar mission. It is just as logical to defend against ballistic missiles as it is to provide elaborate defences against manned bombers.

The SDI is an imaginative and progressive research project which has so far received little recognition in Europe, due largely to ignorance and lack of interest, even though a ground and space-based system would provide defence for Europe as well as the United States.

Yours faithfully,

STEWART MENAUL

The Lodge,
Frensham Vale,
Lower Bourne,
Farnham,
Surrey,
December 20.

Spirit of Christmas

From Dr R. W. Ainsworth and Dr Janet Cooper

Sir, We regret that Mrs Howard Johnston (December 22) was so disappointed by the Midnight Mass at St Mary's last year, but we are concerned that in her letter she may inadvertently have given your readers a somewhat misleading impression of the service.

We do, by the congregation's choice, use the Alternative Service Book, and we do shake hands at the Peace as a gesture of greeting and fellowship, but Mrs Howard-Johnston's other complaints derive from her experience in other churches.

St Mary's is always full of candles for the Midnight Mass, although in such a large building it is necessary to supplement the candle light with some electric light, and the hymns are always traditional Christmas ones. We avoid having to announce page or paragraph numbers by providing clearly duplicated service sheets.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. AINSWORTH,

JANET COOPER,

Churchwardens,
University Church of St Mary the Virgin and Parish of St Cross with St Peter in the East,
Church Office,
High Street,
Oxford,
December 23.

Giza sphinx

From Dr J. E. S. Edwards, FBA

Sir, In your report (November 24) on the projected transfer to Egypt of the fragment of the Giza sphinx's beard and the head of its uraeus you mentioned the precarious condition of the head and neck of the monument and you also described the measures which will be taken to give them support. Unfortunately the whole colossus is deteriorating and the reason is not far to seek.

The sphinx lies in the middle of a large rectangular pit from which stone for the inner core of the Great Pyramid was quarried. The fact that the mass of rock from which the sphinx is carved was not removed when stone was required for the construction of other buildings in its vicinity can only be ascribed to the realization by the ancient quarrymen that they had reached a seam of poor quality and that more durable rock could be obtained from quarries situated not far away.

Putting industry on firmer footing

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, The "blueprint for 1985" (feature, December 20) is to be welcomed as an admirable statement emphasizing the disadvantages that British industry suffers, in comparison with its competitors, in endeavouring to reduce unit costs and increase productivity.

Two points might be added. Our main competitors sub-contract far more of their production than is the practice in this country and double-shift working (at a small premium) is much more widespread. If our major companies would put into practice the policy of maximising sub-contracting it would lead to greater efficiency and more flexible working. Double-shift working means lower costs and higher productivity and the ability, for the same investment, of employing 30 to 50 per cent more people.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1,
December 21.

From Professor A. Kennaway

Sir, The open letter, "Jobs - a blueprint for 1985" (December 20), is as inadequate as blueprints are obsolete. It is depressing that eminent people, some even with business experience, still think that successful business is primarily based upon the factors they discuss - wages, rates, productivity and fiscal measures - while they can ignore the kernel of the issue.

The steady decline in manufacturing industry in this country is directly attributable to the failure of firms to appreciate what the market

wants, to design goods and services that correspond to that demand in appeal, performance and value for money. This depends at least as much upon design as upon the organisation of production, itself dependent on management thought as well as upon wage rates.

It is often said that we produce more Nobel prizewinners in science than our competitors and yet we perform worse in turning science into saleable products. One reason is the absence of people in industry capable of appreciating that good science can be applied to profitable business; another is the paucity of academics who can show industrialists how to achieve this, but in my experience in recent years this is less true, whereas the former is regrettably valid.

Educated and imaginative people are needed, not only in the boardroom, although this is the prime and urgent need, but also at every level, including the shop floor. We have never had the level of education and training in our workforce the equal of the Germans or the Japanese and so we have made the error of trying to design processes that are foolproof and then employing people without giving them the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes that would ensure quality performance and products.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNAWAY,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7,
December 21.

Picket line violence

From Professor Glanville Williams, QC, FBA, and Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, William Clark asked in the House of Commons: "In view of the fact the NUM is paying its pickets out of union funds if it can get its hands on them, is not that tacit endorsement of the union, and if in consequence all these persons find themselves in prison, it may be inconvenient to arrange a meeting of the two sides in the prison to negotiate an end to the strike."

Sir Patrick Mayhew replied: "There has to be evidence of an offence, including a conspiracy, before there is any reasonable prospect of a conviction" (report, December 4).

Whatever the position may be with regard to proof of an offence of violence, no doubt can reasonably be felt that mass picketing is at least a summary offence of "watching and besetting" under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875.

Further, for the purpose of obtaining a judicial clarification of the law, the trade union should itself be charged in such circumstances. We also need an amendment of the peaceful picketing provision to put a firm limit on the number of pickets permissible. Contrary to general belief, there is no "right" to picket in the sense that people are obliged to stop and listen to the pickets.

They cannot assemble in such numbers as to make the highway impassable. They cannot stand to obstruct people or vehicles entering the workplace, even though this means that in practice they are unable to communicate with the people they want to reach. Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
FRANCIS BENNION,
Merion Gate,
Gazeley Road,
Cambridge.

Making tigers tick

From Dr M. Carruthers

Sir, Your headline, "Dust and adrenalin on the Gandhi campaign trail" (December 21), is guilty of hormonal misrepresentation!

Research I carried out with Dr Peter Taggart and Dr Walter Somerville at the Middlesex Hospital on parachutists, rock climbers, and bungee-jumpers in the dentist's chair showed clearly that adrenalin is released under conditions of fear and anxiety; it is not the intoxicating stimulant it is frequently portrayed to be in the Press.

Not only does it induce mental feelings of anxiety and dread, but physically it makes the heart beat rapidly and erratically, giving palpitations, pallor and perspiration, causing the cold sweat of fear. These sensations are most unpleasant, and certainly not addictive.

What does turn people on and, I believe, makes them "stress seekers", is what we now think of as the highly addictive "kick" or "drive" hormone, noradrenalin. Our studies on racing driving, everyday motor racing, different forms of exercise, and public speaking, especially on radio and television, showed large increases in circulating noradrenalin levels in these stimulating situations. Though chemically similar to adrenalin, the less well known but more intoxicating and motivationally more important hormone,

noradrenalin, has very different actions.

Tests on MPs showed that campaigning, like other competitive sports, together with cold conditions, cigarette smoking, coffee drinking, car driving, and copulation, caused surges of noradrenalin in the blood. As well as mobilising physical resources for fighting by raising blood pressure and fat levels, which can play a major part in causing heart disease, it stimulates pleasure centres in the hypothalamic regions of the brain.

This is the common chemical pathway to pleasure which politicians tread when they are on the campaign trail. It is what makes tigers tick - in politics, industry, or any other walk of life.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM CARRUTHERS,
Medical Director,
Positive Health Centre,
101 Harley Street, W1.

Bear with a smile

From Mrs Therese Pollen

Sir, If, as I understand from your leader (December 17), the Russian bear prevented deployment of the neutron bomb in the seventies, then I find his smile disarmingly infectious.

Yours sincerely,
THERESA POLLEN,
Cray Clearing,
Harpsden Wood,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Somewhat paradoxically, therefore, the very existence of the sphinx is likely to have been due, at least indirectly, to a cause which is now liable to lead to its destruction, namely inherent defects in the material in which it was carved.

Besides the beard and the head of the uraeus, a crown has become detached from the head; the socket into which it fitted provides the only positive evidence that it ever existed.

In view of the relative softness of the stone, it may seem strange that the sphinx should already have survived for some 4,500 years. The explanation is to be found in the simple fact that, for the greater part of its existence, it has been engulfed in sand and thus protected from wind and weather.

While it is impossible to calculate with any precision the proportion of its existence during which the sphinx was visible, what we know of the fate of other monuments in Egypt strongly suggests that its

Austen marriages not à la mode

From Mr T. W. Mayberry

Sir, James Fenton, in his review (December 20) of Professor John Halperin's biography of Jane Austen, makes much of the entries which Jane Austen allegedly forged at different times in the registers of banns and marriages for the parish of Steventon. He goes so far as to suggest that her actions are "highly indicative of a disturbed mind", and interprets them as an ill-judged practical joke directed at her father, the rector.

Perhaps he does it to tease, but a word of clarification may be appropriate none the less.

The entries were made, evidently on a single occasion during Jane Austen's youth, in a combined register of banns and marriages, 1755-1812, and appear, not in the body of the volume, but as additions to the printed specimen page provided for the guidance of clergyman.

Above the A.B. and C.D. which stand for names in the specimen entries Jane Austen has added her own name and those of two imaginary gentlemen. For her prospective husband in the banns entry she chooses Henry Frederic Howard Fitzwilliam, of London; in the marriage entry below he has become Edmund Arthur William Mortimer, of Liverpool, though not satisfied even with him, she has the new husband and wife sign themselves Jack Smith and Jane Smith - "late Austen". Jack and Jane are also the witnesses.

Such additions scarcely amount to forgery, appearing in their context to be as playful as Halperin suggests and unable to bear the weight of significance Mr Fenton thinks he finds. If they are significant of anything, then perhaps, as one might expect, it is of an irony Jane Austen directs against herself: she imagines two husbands with fine-sounding names, but settles after a moment's thought for the more realistic prospect of becoming plain Jane Smith.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. MAYBERRY,
Hampshire Record Office,
20 Southgate Street,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
December 22.

From Mr Leslie Dunkling

Sir, In his review (December 20) of the latest Jane Austen biography, James Fenton makes the natural assumption that affection for the novelist has led to the renewed popularity of Emma as a first name. The indexes of births at St Catherine's House (10 Kingsway, WC2), show quite clearly that the use of Emma was suddenly revived in the late 1960s.

It is unlikely that the self-satisfied cleverness of Miss Emma Woodhouse had suddenly caught the public's imagination, but there is ample evidence that they were responding well at the time to Mrs Emma Peel, in the television series *The Avengers*, as portrayed by Diana Rigg. Come to think of it, she was self-satisfied and clever too, but she obviously gave Emma an acceptable modern image.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE DUNKLING,
32 Spence Road,
Thames Ditton, Surrey.

Prescription of drugs

From Dr Hugh E. G. Rees

Sir Your leading article (December 13) suggests that doctors are opposed to the latest proposals to limit the National Health drug bill and are refusing to discuss them with the Department of Health and Social Security. It is actually the British Medical Association that is refusing to talk.

At a (small) meeting of local doctors with one member of Parliament last week, there was no disagreement with the "limited list" or the "generic substitution" ideas. There is a lot wrong with the details, but the principles are sound.

In refusing to talk to the department the BMA is acting, in my view, irresponsibly and we may end up as a result with a very bad scheme.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. G. REES,
Carey's House,
4 Church Lane, Barrowden,
Oakham, Leicestershire,
December 23.

Trees for burning

From Mr T. Edward Bevin

Sir, It is always tragic to see our nation's trees uprooted to make way, for example, for the building of a motorway. Such a scene at present can be found at Brickley Wood, Hertfordshire, where construction work on the M25 is under way.

However, it is particularly tragic to see hundreds of trees of different species stacked in piles, sometimes rising to 20 feet high, slowly being reduced to ashes on enormous bonfires.

Surely Mr Ridley's Department of Transport advisers could suggest some alternative life for these trees. I dare say that many old people, still using open fires, would welcome a few logs.

Yours faithfully,
T. EDWARD BEVIN,
34 Watford Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
December 27.

Royal peculiar

From Mr Richard Allen

Sir, Is it not a comfort to us all in the light of Her Majesty's Christmas broadcast and the recent utterances of the bishops, that our future King William can, at so early an age, run circles around the Archbishop of Canterbury?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ALLEN,
101A Penwith Road,
Earlsfield, SW18,
Christmas Day.

LAS NICHOLSON
er chairman of
Breweries

TREY J. ALKEN

THOMAS RAPP

MOON
MELAND

1985
CALENDAR OF
WORLD SPORT
PAGES 14 & 15

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29 DECEMBER 1984-4 JANUARY 1985 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Jane MacQuitty puts the best of champagne to the test with a view to toasting in the new year in style

Uncorking a vintage mystery



Noble line in bottles

It is all Dom Pérignon's fault of course. For without the inspiration of this blind Benedictine monk, Moët et Chandon might never have introduced the first *cuvée de prestige* champagne, which bears his name. Without DP, as socialites and swells irreverently refer to this most aristocratic of apples, the other *grandes marques* houses would probably not have produced their own deluxe versions.

As with all the best traditions, the story of champagne is a blend of fact and legend. Dom Pérignon is universally credited with and deservedly famous for the basic process of making champagne.

Whether or not he actually did discover it is in fact highly debatable. But that hardly matters: what is beyond doubt is that he was the first man to make a *cuvée* or blend of wines, just as the Champenois do today, while at Hautvillers Abbey, near Epernay, in the 17th century. So it is fitting that the first prestige champagne to be launched on the market should have been called after him.



Corking a bottle

Moët et Chandon began producing Dom Pérignon in 1921, but only for consumption by family and friends. Another seven years went by before it was launched commercially. But it did not take long for other firms to realize that *crème de la crème* champagnes would prove a lucrative business as well as considerably enhancing the reputation of their existing vintage and non-vintage *cuvées*.

With limited supplies and an apparently ever-increasing demand, the prestige *cuvées* were often available only on allocation and no one complained when several firms upped their prestige prices to exactly double those of their ordinary vintage champagnes.

The method of producing *cuvée de prestige* champagnes is different to that employed for ordinary vintage and non-vintage fizz. But all champagne is a blend of three varieties: namely Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir. There are, however, a few exceptions, which include two of those sampled in our tasting: Taittinger's fine *Comtes de Champagne*, which is a Blanc de Blancs, made exclusively from the Chardonnay grape, and Dom Pérignon is another Blanc de Blancs, which comes from a firm founded in 1729 that claims to be "la plus ancienne maison de Champagne".

The competition between the different champagne houses is intense. With so much at stake each does its best to extract every last drop of razzmatazz and snob appeal from their *cuvées de prestige*. Moët probably attracts more publicity than anyone else, with the elegant 18th century lines of their dark green Dom Pérignon bottle. Several other *grandes marques* have shamelessly copied the bottle but not, it seems, the sales, for DP still sells three times as much as its nearest competitor.

Packaging is important: it is clear that the bottles in which the champagnes come are an integral part of their appeal. And if we have a Frenchman to thank for the best champagne in the world, it is to a Russian that the credit must go for insisting that they should be seen to be the best.



Corking good stuff: It looks like the moment when a champagne cork pops, but it isn't. Jonathan Watts created this illusion using a bottomless bottle inverted to act as a funnel (above). A specially built unit gave a 50 microsecond flash which, combined with a 1/500 second shutter speed, gave a 1/2000 second reaction speed. The film was Agfa 100 in a Cambo 5x4 bellows camera with Redenstock 180mm lens on f16. The picture on the left, shot at 20 microsecond, shows a cork leaving a bottle in reality.

Schramsberg, that costly sparkler from the Napa Valley in California, has perhaps got the closest, but even that can compete only with the champagne houses' vintage rather than prestige blends. One or two other *methode champenoise* wines from different parts of France also come within shouting distance, notably the south west's Blanquette de Limoux and the odd Crémant de La Loire fizz. But, like it or not, there is something extraordinarily fine, rare and - no doubt much to the champagne houses' considerable relief - unattainable about the top prestige *cuvées*.

Apart from Dom Pérignon and Cristal big sellers include Laurent Perrier's *Cuvée Grand Siècle*, which along with Krug's *Grande Cuvée* is one of the few non-vintage prestige *cuvées* available. Confusingly, Krug are *cuvées de prestige* and that includes the *Grande Cuvée* (currently made from a blend of six different vintages of which the youngest is 1977).

One of the latest on the market (as yet available only in magnums) is Pol Roger's Sir Winston Churchill. Sir Winston once called the firm's headquarters in the Avenue du Champagne in Epernay "the world's most drinkable address" and reputedly drank a bottle of Pol a day. The new *cuvée* returns the compliment in a way that the great man would doubtless have appreciated to the full.

If you want to indulge yourself, the new year is as good a time as any - and probably better than most. So the imminent arrival of 1985 seemed a reasonable excuse for a prestige champagne tasting, which must rank as one of the most sybaritic tasting exercises ever.

Is Dom Pérignon really worth the money? Is Roederer's Cristal anything more than a gilded bottle? Six of us decided to find out - and our results are just in time for Monday night.

Prestige champagnes, incidentally, are the *crème de la crème* of the champagne world, produced in a different way from ordinary vintage and non-vintage bubbly. Not only are most of them made almost entirely from grapes from the finest years and best vineyards, they are also made exclusively from the juice of the first, soft, gentle, *vin de cuvée* pressing, whereas the juice from the second and third pressings is consigned to less noble champagnes.

After the first fermentation wines destined for the prestige *cuvées* are again rigorously and ruthlessly selected so that once more only the finest go forward to the final prestige *cuvée* or blend. The de luxe champagnes are then put into one of those fancy prestige bottles which because of their awkward shape have to be dealt with by hand. It is an expensive business - though not perhaps as expensive as the champagne houses would have us believe.

Most of the wines we examined in our tasting were *cuvées de prestige* from the *grandes marques* houses, and they included two newcomers (Pol Roger's Sir Winston Churchill and Piper Heidsieck's Champagne Rare). I threw in Moët et Chandon's non-prestige straight Dry Imperial vintage fizz to keep us all on our toes. But I avoided the temptation to include others such as Taittinger's Collection and Krug's Clos du Mesnil which come from what appears to be a new and even more expensive "super prestige" category of champagnes that are unobtainable for less than about £30. Most of our *cuvées de prestige* are priced at about £22.

Joining me (JMQ) in this extravagant event were Michael Crozier (MC), editor of *Saturday*; Michael Broadbent (MB), head of Christie's Wine Department; Richard Freeman (RF), from The Champagne House, the specialist champagne merchants; Serena Sutcliffe (SS), wine consultant and author; and Don Hewison (DH), from the award-winning Cork & Bottle chain of wine bars.

SUPERSTARS

Cuvée Grand Siècle, Laurent Perrier
Harrods, London SW1, £24.75; Conroy & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, £22.98; 4 Vintners, 7 Kingsland Road, London E2, £21.50; Hampstead Vintners, 111 West Heath Road, London NW3, £23.75.
Everyone loved this superb champagne with its "lustrous-gold colour and wonderfully elegant, toasty character" (JMQ). SS enjoyed its "really classy nose", MB found it reminiscent of "fresh walnuts", and DH noted with satisfaction that it was "full of champagne character and without the mummy". This is the champagne served to passengers on British Airways Concorde flights to celebrate the transition from Mach 1 to Mach 2. Flying on this plane would obviously be worthwhile just for the fizz.

1976 Dom Pérignon, Moët et Chandon
Oodbins, £22.60; Arthur Rackham £21.99.
From Sydney to Saskatchewan, DP is rated liquid gold dust and our tasting proved that it is worth every ounce of its Fort Knox reputation. SS felt she could drink this "lovely welcoming champagne" for ever. DH enjoyed its "rich, full-bodied flavour with plenty of life" and JMQ found it "soft and biscuity".

1979 Cristal, Louis Roederer
Bottoms Up, £22.99; Oodbins, £23.
By appointment to Tsar Alexander III, and our panel could only endorse his good taste: "superb flowery nose, classic structure... considerable depth... worth every penny" (DH); "flowery, elegant, just my style" (SS) and "rich, warm, fragrant - I could drink a lot of this" (JMQ).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

1979 René Lalou, G. H. Mumm
Gough Bros, £19.99; Selfridges £21.
This came as something of a surprise, for Mumm's *Monsieur Lalou* is not the first *cuvée de prestige* that springs to mind. Nevertheless MB found it "dry, frothy and delicate" while JMQ commented: "not my style but light, fragrant and flowery all the same"; DH described it as "soft, flowery and attractive".

1979 La Grande Dame, Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin
Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly, London W1, £22; Weavers of Nottingham, £21.
Worthy of the merry widow, with characteristics that included a "rich walnut nose" (MB) and "peppery palate" (JMQ), it added up to a "big rewarding wine" (DH) that SS thought would have "super potential".

1979 Sir Winston Churchill, Pol Roger
Magnum only from Malmesbury Wine Club, 28 Midland Road, London NW1, £20; Fortnum & Mason, £24.50.
Sir Winston Churchill's "positive rich Pinot Noir nose and flavour" went down well with MB, and RF admired the "harmonious well-made, well-rounded Pinot blend". SS also picked up the "chunky, black grapes character".

RECOMMENDED

1976 Comtes de Champagne, Taittinger
Andre Simon, £21.95; Tanners of Shrewsbury, £21.88.
JMQ loved the Comtes' "elegant ripe flowery fizz" as did MB, who commented on the "fragrant, stylish, fresh lingering flavour".

Krug Grande Cuvée
Peter Dominie, £20.99; Cullens, £22.56.
The Krug family run one of the few champagne houses which continue to ferment in oak and MC picked up a "subtle nutty taste" while DH described it as a "another classic style - full, yeasty and flavoursome".

1979 Dry Imperial, Moët et Chandon
Oodbins, £18.95; Peter Dominie, £11.50.
Not a prestige *cuvée* at all, merely Moët's straight vintage blend put in to see if anyone would spot it and most tasters did: DH found it "flowery, smooth but lacking complexity", MC "undistinctive", JMQ "disappointing" and SS "reticent and slight".

BORDERLINE

1978 Belle Époque, Perrier-Jouët
Bottoms Up, £19.98; The Vintage House, 42 Old Compton Street, London W1, £22.57.
Proof that you need more than just a pretty bottle. MC found this "too full-bodied", RF "uninspiring" and JMQ "aggressive".

1979 Cuvée Champagne, Charles Heidsieck

IN THE PINK

obtained. The traditional method, where the grape skins were left in contact with the juice so that just a trace of their red colour ran into the wine, has now almost died out and I know of only a couple of firms who still continue to use this tricky, time-consuming process. My favourite non-vintage pink is Chabrant Rosé (still made, incidentally, by the traditional method) which has a pretty colour and wonderful bouquet and taste. (The Champagne House, 15 Dawson Place, London W2, £7.99). Of the vintage roses my favourite is Pol Roger's 1975 with its fine flowery bouquet and full fruity taste. (The Champagne House £1.99, Selfridges £12.65).

Agaré Simon, £20.60; Harrods £22.25.
The Americans dubbed this firm's founder "Champagne Charlie". MC found this "delicate and refined", MB "lean, crisp and flavoury" and SS "elegant but a bit sharp".

1978 Dom Ruinart, Blanc de Blancs
Oodbins, £11.85; Harrods, £15.25.
JMQ much enjoyed the Dom's "flowery, elegant, citrus-like character" but everyone else found it just a "straightforward, fruity run-of-the-mill champagne" (SS).

1975 Bollinger RD
Oodbins, £19.20; Harrods, £23.60.
RD stands for "recently disgorged", meaning that it has spent longer maturing on its yeast sediment than the others. This should give it an extra dimension. But no one rated this one very highly except MC, who called it a "sophisticated, full-bodied wine" and MB who praised its "rich, masty style".

1976 Cuvée William Deutz, Deutz
Malmesbury Wine Club, 28 Midland Road, London NW1, £14.50; The Champagne House, 15 Dawson Place, London W2, £14.50.
JMQ picked up an "odd over-ripe, pineapple-type fruit" character on Monsieur William as did DH, who commented on its "unusual nose with strange fruit", and SS who found it "lustrous... a real oddball".

NOT WORTH THE MONEY

1979 Diamant Bleu, Heidsieck Dry Monopole
Rackhams of Birmingham, £20; Kendal Mine of Manchester, £20.
Cuvée du Cent Cinquantenaire, Joseph Perrier Champagne & Caviar, London EC3, £18.50; Camden Vintners, Chipping Camden, £21.45.
1976 Champagne Rare, Piper Heidsieck Selfridges, £22; Harrods £32.
Noble Cuvée, London SE1, £18.82.
Stones of Belgravia, London SW1, £19.98.

THE RESULTS

On the plus side, this was a tasting that proved that the best sellers at least are worth the money and that anyone indulging in one of our three superstars will be getting a very fine fizz indeed.

The panel was asked to keep value for money in mind when assessing the wines and most tasters concluded that, apart from the winning wines, there was not enough class, breeding and refinement present to warrant such steep prices. Serena Sutcliffe and Don Hewison both felt that at the moment there is much better value to be found in the vintage champagne category and Richard Freeman, our most censorious critic, said that with few exceptions these champagnes represented "the vulgar section of the champagne market" - the sort that is knocked back without thought in night clubs.

For my part, I was pleased, as was DH, that the top eight champagnes did on the whole live up to their reputation, showing uncompromising flavour, style and weight. But it is hard to justify the expense of those prestige champagnes that were not even up to the standard of Moët's Dry Imperial, which we used as our benchmark: any champagne below this is unlikely to impress.

However, champagne, perhaps more than any other wine, is very much a matter of personal taste, so take your pick from *The Times*'s top *cuvées de prestige*. Happy New Year!

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

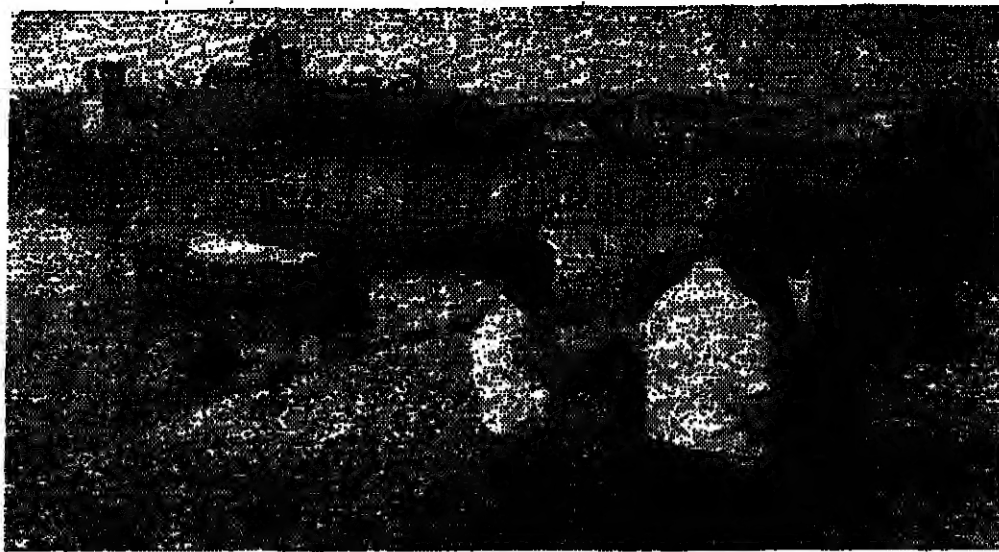
Turkish delight and a breath of fresh air

Ronald Faux on the pleasures of warm weather sailing in the eastern Aegean

However bitter the divisions lingering between Greece and Turkey, Aeolus, the Greek god of the wind, still blows with perfect impartiality. Daily out of the wine-dark sea the surge of warm air materializes from the Cyclades and across the Dodecanese, sweeping on to the coasts and headlands of the Turkish coast. We could have set the chronometer by it.

Mornings dawned in a glass calm, the yacht anchored on its own reflection. Then at 10 o'clock the first caupaw of breeze shimmered on the surface. By noon the surface would be beaten pewter, perfect for mastering the art of wind surfing and by mid-afternoon a full-bellied Falstaff of a wind would be sweeping into the gulf of Kos which was the point of our exploration.

It was rarely enough to oblige more than a few balancing turns on the furling headsail and warm wind even at gale force



never seems to hold the same threat as the cold British variety, which may have the added complication of blowing across the top of a tide. In that bottlenecked pond of the Mediterranean, tide is never a worry.

The Turkish coast is the place to dream of when rain is running drably off your skins and the end-of-season weather in Britain tests your real enthusiasm. It is generally less crowded than the islands of

Greece, having been discovered and developed more recently by the yachting fraternity. The finger of progress is tending to press eastwards along the Aegean coast and was last seen halfway down the Lycian shore. Progress, of course, means marinas, service bases, rising expectations, a more commercial attitude in the communities along the coast and a rise in the cost of life for tourists. The ideal is to enjoy these places before Aeolus blows in with rather more than the wind.

There were three of us on the boat, an excellent 40ft Moody sloop owned by an oil company executive in the Middle East and managed on his behalf by Top Yacht charter as part of a small but high quality fleet of yachts at Bodrum. Locals reflected that only a few years ago the town and its superb fortress lay sleepily by the sea guarded by a deterrent stretch of narrow, pot-holed road. Now the road was good giving smooth entry for air conditioned coaches from Izmir airport, four hours away. Europe lies two hours beyond by jet.

Development has been indirectly helped by the Greeks and the attitude they began to take towards tourists and yacht operators: shaking them until their halcyons rattled in terms of taxes and charges. We were told that a number of British charter firms had sailed east from Greece to resettle in the financially calmer waters of Turkey.

On the quayside at Bodrum we walked along the edge of a

forest of masts rising from the decks of handsome glass-fibre cruisers, gin palaces and traditionally Turkish gulets, wood-built with spacious aft decks and matronly transoms. The idea of making Bodrum a yachting gateway to the eastern Aegean is clearly on a successful course.

We settled on board *Banside* (Gaelic for banshee) as the moon poured cool light on the ancient walls of the castle, once occupied by the crusader knights of St John. We received "the Top Yacht welcome" and a detailed tour of the boat and its mysteries. The vessel had what was proudly claimed to be the best bridge in the east Mediterranean, a frozen oasis that could provide an endless supply of chilled beer, the best antidote to 85° of sunshine.

Top Yacht requires that one person on board a "bare boat" charter should have the Royal Yachting Association certificate of competence or a similar qualification, and a £400 deposit concentrates the mind on responsible sailing. We motored out from between two elegant

'Anchorage that were a veritable box of delights'

gulets early next morning. The marina was so crowded that the space we left immediately closed as the neighbouring boats eased their moorings.

So began six days of superb sailing with the gulf of Kos, Doris and Gulluk, the Dodecanese or even the Lycian coast as the offered choice. We decided on the Gulf of Kos because of the relatively short time available and the cumbersome paperwork required to land on Greek territory.

The gulf is a broad cove 30 miles deep with the Anatolian hills rising beyond it. The edge is deeply cut with coves and fjords and although navigation aids are few, so too are the offshore dangers. Careful navigation is rarely required, but more to preserve the self-respect of the navigator.

Banside was a well found yacht lacking nothing, with state apartment and en suite toilet aft and a warren of berths and cabins elsewhere. Bodrum may have been developed, but along the shores of the gulf there was little sign of such progress. We



Ancient and Modern: The castle of the crusader knights which overlooks the busy fishing port of Bodrum

were well-guided by the cruising notes on board which introduced us to such villages as Vasiliki where we tied *Banside's* stern to a rock, pulling her securely back on to her anchor as the local restaurateur, Captain Ibrahim, ferried people ashore. We ate lamb kebab grilled on an open fire as the sea whispered up to the legs of tables set on the beach. Locals played sombre music on a long-necked lute. Men dance with men in Turkey and it is no good complaining your card is full. You are forced on to the floor for this macho performance: lots of slow, bold stamping of the feet and peacock gesturing, a cross between bull fighting and a Wigan clog dance.

The days drifted by through a nicely varied choice of anchorages. The southern shore of the gulf was the most impressive, with deep inlets sheltered by gentle folds of woodland giving anchorages that were a veritable box of delights. Cleopatra's Island could have been superb, with its beaches of fine sand that was once ballast in the visiting Egyptian sailing vessels. Unfortunately the island is a mecca for commercial pleasure boats and every nook and cranny on the island is now clogged with rubbish. An untidy lot, the Turks, but away from the crowds and the sunbather tracks and in places that can only be reached by boat there is no such problem.

Sometimes the disorganization is delightful. The average evening meal with wine included cost £5 per head but one evening the wine costs soared because the food we had ordered failed to appear. The entire *al fresco* restaurant of diners became very relaxed around tables made from milstones, as bottles clunked to the floor and the restaurant owner fended all enquiries about food with a bright smile, meanwhile studying the horizon with his binoculars. Eventually came the spluttering sound of a small motor vessel. His brother was arriving with the food and soon the meat was sizzling in the barbecue and on the spit. Turkey has that charm of refusing to organize tourism too slickly, and continues at an unchanged pace. What country, for example, would continue the annual rite of *Kurban Bayram* or sheep slaughtering in front of sensitive western visitors? One Bodrum hotelier was deeply puzzled to know why his guests should faint and fall about when, in the true Turkish tradition, he led a sheep on to the doorstep of his hotel and cheerfully slit its throat.

Top Yacht Charter fly parties to Izmir every Sun from Gatwick using British Airways. Two weeks on *Banside*, on a basis of six sharing in September, would be £226 a head including return flight, coach links, taxes, insurance and sundries. Top Yacht's address is Andrew Hill Lane, Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire (02814 2640).

The Seine and seins nus

Robin Young on the varied life and history around France's famous river

When it comes to short winter breaks at bargain fares, it is not only the breaks that are short. So are the days. The Seine valley, easily accessible from most of the Channel ports, fills the out-of-season hill for short distances, pleasurable accompaniment, and meals worth lingering over. The huge loops in the river's course, where white cliffs and alluvial plains alternate between banks, create a series of distinctive peninsulas, fascinating to explore.

We started from Le Havre which, though modern and concrete, is not as inhuman as it looks. It is worth searching out its whole of a *Maison de la Culture* and *Société de la Culture*. Lefevre in the rue Victor Hugo is a better food shop than almost any in Britain - and, to be fair, most in France. La Petite Auberge, on the rue de Ste-Adresse, (tel: 010.33.35.46.27.32), is a charming family restaurant of the old red gingham sort, serving substantial meals at 69 francs, and so popular that you will not get in unless you book.

For plusher comfort and fussier food, Dubuc at Le Hode, beyond the industrial tangle of the port, has 140 franc menus which can be inexpensively complemented with excellent cider at 25 francs (to book, ring 010.33.35.20.06.57). The menu may still leave time for a visit to the frescos in the old church of St Jean d'Abbebot before moving on to Lillebonne, its Roman theatre, and the castle where William I, the Conqueror, was born.

At Villequier the Seine is beautiful indeed. The Victor Hugo museum by the quay is a poignant reminder that his newly-married daughter drowned here with her husband in 1843. Of pre-war Caudebec only three houses and the fine flamboyant church survive, but the riverside is delightful. André Delaporte, at 3 Quai Gullibaud, collects trophies from the annual contest of the Golden Tripe Pot for his *tripes à la mode de Caen*. In a cool bag, a tripe can be kept five days to be eaten at home.

For hotels, the choice lies between the grand Domaine de Villequier, or creeper-clad *Manoir de Retival* in their own grounds high over the river, or the *Marine*, the only hotel at river and road level which I know to have reasonable sound insulation.

It is good to be on hand for morning mass sung with Gregorian chant in the monastery church (a resurrected stone barn) in the ruins of St Wandrille abbey, where saints "flourished like rose trees in a greenhouse". More splendid still are the ruins of Jumièges. In spring its banks are bright with clusters of luminous primroses and while we were there the abbey was encircled by that most French of sporting events, a cycle race.

At Mesnil-sous-Jumièges is the old farmhouse where Agnes Sorel, favourite of Charles VII died. Quiet, grey and austere, it seems oddly modest and remote for a courtesan who won notoriety by baring first both breasts but later only one. Rouen, which is really worth a break of its own, walks the rounds of the old market place, the great clock, the cathedral, the church and charnel house (now art school) of Saint Maclou, and Saint Ouen - an exceptional example of modern life in picturesque period surroundings.



Kingly courtesan: Agnes Sorel in a revealing and appealing pose



Rouen has two exceptionally good new restaurants. Gill, 60 rue St Nicolas (010.33.35.71.16.14), with a chef from Tallevint in Paris, is all the rage with the town's businessmen, but Bertrand Warin, 9 rue Pie, off the market place, is more charming and cheaper (010.33.35.89.26.69). Good value fixed menus (99 and 125 francs respectively).

If staying overnight, the Bristol, 4 rue aux Juifs, is a sympathetically managed, modest hotel conveniently situated in the old quarter.

Try driving south-east on the Rouen corridor to St Catherine Hill and Bonsecours. At sunset especially it will impress you as it did the Impressionists. From Bonsecours the drive is still scenic, past the Amfiteatre lock, St Adrien rocks, the steep hills of the Côte des Deux Amans and the almost human profile of La Roque to La Andelys, the loveliest site of all the Seine, dominated by Chateau Gaillard.

Down at the water's edge, cheek by jowl with the busy barges, is La Chaîne d'Or, a splendid example of all that a thriving, friendly French inn should be. The menus, at 90 francs, are fine and the rooms (the dearest 240 francs) good, value (010.33.32.54.00.31).

Beyond Les Andelys the proximity of Paris becomes palpable with increasingly desirable properties along the river. Our last stop was Le Moulin de Connelles (010.33.32.59.82.54), an architectural fantasy straight from a Charles Addams cartoon.

Errie by moonlight, and still being repaired and improved, it is an extraordinary place. Our room under the eaves (350 francs) had a wood-panelled and tile-ornamented balcony. The river slides right under the hotel dining room, and there is a private island which catches all the sun. The place has not yet been discovered by the English guides, but there was a gracious note from Sir John Gielgud in the visitors' book.

All the cross-channel ferry companies offer bargain rates for five day mini-breaks, allowing up to 120 hours ashore. P & O charge from £91 for a car and three adults, plus £16 for each additional adult, on their Southampton-La Havre route. Townsend Thoresen, sailing from Portsmouth, charge from £25 for the car and £25.50 for each adult passenger.

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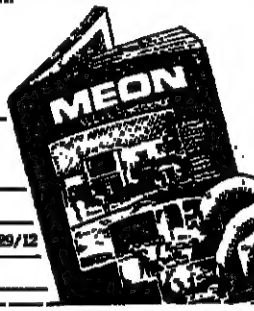
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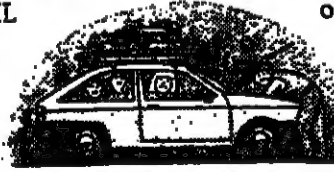


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Beryl Downing at the New Year sales

Cheap thrills

The week after Christmas is known in American stores as "the thirteenth month" - the time to make up on the sales savings any shortfall on the retail roundabouts during the rest of the year, or in boom times simply to add extra noughts to the balance sheet.

There are plenty of noughts to add. Harrods, who are even advertising their sale in New York newspapers this year, took £22m last January - more than 10 per cent of their annual turnover - from customers fighting to snap up anything going for a song, even if the starting price was more of an acid than a jungle. In harsh economic times people buy quality because it has to last.

The one thing no one can afford at sale time is indecision, so it is as well to know which departments will prove the best hunting grounds. For the house, Harrods is best for top quality china, Selfridges for large electrical goods, John Lewis for duvets and towels, Heal's for modern glass.

Fashion, of course, is a very individual choice, so head for the designers that suit you or stick to classics - this is the time to buy your Burberry cashmere, leather and fur.

To point you in the right direction, here is a room-by-room guide to some of the most worth while bargains selected from this year's main sales.

KITCHEN

Half-price pans - Prestige's Italia non-stick pans, red with Teflon lining: 26cm frypan, for example, £3.95 (reduced from £7.95); Tefal's Graphite non-stick pans in grey, 20cm saucepan £7.45 (£14.95); marble pastry slab 14in x 18in £8.25 (£12.50) and rolling pin £3.25 (£6.50). Harrods Cookshop.

Polaris stainless steel second, 26cm frypan £14 (£24.50), saucepan 14cm £14 to 20cm £21 (£36.50 to £37), 20cm casserole £21 (£37). Be careful when you buy Polaris as there are two qualities in the same design - this, the deluxe, and a standard version which is slightly cheaper. John Lewis.

Bosch fridge/freezer KS2 430 £349 (£410); Bosch free standing oven £168 (£229); AEG washer dryer 2040 £419 (£518). Selfridges.

DINING ROOM

Large plain glass salad bowl by Iittala £19.25 (£33.50); seconds of Rosenthal Medallion porcelain, white, 50 per cent off perfect price: teapot £5.30 (£12.65), teacup £1.25 (£2.50) 26cm plate £2.50 (£4.10); Hornsey Concept range, white, glazed inside, matt out, seconds 30 per cent off - teapot £13.95 (£19.95), 10in plate £3.40 (£4.90), soup/cereal £2.75 (£3.95). Heal's.

David Mellor cutlery, 20 per cent off: six-piece set of classically simple Java design with red, black or yellow handles £16.20 (£20.25); child's matching three-piece set for ages two to ten £7.08 (£8.85); all stainless steel cutlery for every day called Café, four piece set £4.12 (£5.15). David Mellor.

LIVING ROOM

On Jan 5, one only. Scala natural ash bureau £395 (£1,485). This is an example of Heal's one-only bargains at less than cost price which will be added to the normal sales items each Saturday including the last day of the sale, Jan 26. Heal's.

Sony video recorder (Beta) SLCA0 £399 (£549), Sony 27in colour television with teletext KV 2706UB £539 (£698). Harrods.

Oriental rugs, half price, 8ftx4ft wool Hamadan, red background, £220 (£500), 5ftx3ft silk Kum, navy ground £99 (£200), rare 60 years old 10ftx7ft wool Shiraz (Gushki) light blue ground, £1,100 (£2,500). No two alike. Cyprus Carpets.

BEDROOM BATHROOM

Polished brass bedstead with 5ft Vi-spring Victory base and mattress £350 (£1,906); electrically adjustable bed by Treca de Paris, single size with pocketed sprung mattress, £1,183 (£2,387). London Bedding Centre.

Discontinued and seconds bed linen - double sheets £10 (£14.95).

VALUES



In the mink - at £1,900 less than the usual price. Classic demi-buff coat, £4,900 reduced from £6,800 in the Birger Christensen/Maxwell Croft sale which begins January 14

plain pillowslips £12 (£17.95), duvet covers £12 (£17.95), valances from £8 to £12 (£12.95 to £19.95) according to size. Laura Ashley.

Vanessa self-assembly furniture, white finish with red or blue trim - nice for children's rooms: single bed with drawers £127 (£160), wall unit with record rack £105 (£132), Maples, Waring & Gillow.

Special purchases duvets: new white goose feathers 13.5 tog, single £59, double £79, king £99; down feather 12 tog single £35, double £45, king £59, all made in China; polyester 12 tog single £17, double £28, king £33, made in UK; good range of Jonelle towels, seconds: guest £1.45 (£1.95), hand £2.95 (£3.85), bath £4.95 (£6.95). John Lewis.

MEN'S CLOTHES

Dinner jackets £80 (£120); Magee lounge suits, pure wool, £115 (£145); Burberry shirts £18.95 (£22.50). Moss Bros.

Classic corduroy jackets with suede elbow patches £59 (£99), wool/mohair lightweight trousers £29 (£45), lambswool intarsia sweaters £19 (£39), V-neck lambswool classic sweaters £12.50 (£22). Jaeger.

Leather slip-on shoes with lizard vamps, Galileo £80 (£125) black only. Bally.

The trenchcoat with the original check lining £160 (£215) Burberry's.

Leather and suede blousons, textured or plain, from £365 (£498), chunky hunting jackets, belted or elasticated waists with zip fronts, many with lamb collars £450 (£675). Loewe.

WOMEN'S CLOTHES

Tweed blazer style jackets in current Jaeger fashion colours - amethyst, sapphire, ruby and treetop - £59 (£115), botany wool, tunic style sweaters in same colours, £15 (£31); blazer in

padding pink and grey brocade with silver Linex £49 (£69). Jaeger.

Alexon blazers, grey, £42.50 (£65); Gor-Ray skirts £19.50 (£39.99); classic cashmere and wool coats, double breasted, black, grey, camel or taupe £49.99 (£85), D. H. Evans.

Prince of Wales check wool dresses £62 (£92), burgundy double breasted wool jackets £37 (£75), skirts £19.50 (£39) and trousers £19.50 (£39), all classic styles; Options departments of Austin Reed.

Tweed coats £129 (£199) and fur trimmed coats £289 (£429), velvet trousers £32.50 (£47), corduroy trousers £29.50 (£42), black velvet suits with straight skirts and waist skimming collarless jackets £149.50 (£195). Aquascutum.

Silk satin bras and briefs each £3.50 (£8.95), French Connection cord trousers £19 (£37.95), pleated tweed skirts by Laurel £57 (£115), stylish Stephen Marks college coats £99 (£135). Fenwick.

Ranch mink jacket £975 (£1,495), ranch mink coat £2,950 (£4,200), natural demi-buff mink coat £4,900 (£5,800), blue silver fox cape £5,900 (£9,900), silk raincoat with sable collar, lined in sable mosaic £2,350 (£2,950). Birger Christensen/Maxwell Croft - the first sale since these two international names in top quality furs merged three months ago.

Liberty print fabrics (perfect): plain silk chiffon £3 metre (£8.50), silk crepe de chine £12 (£16.50), Tana lawn £3.50 (£5.25), printed silk and cashmere shawls £25 (£38.95). Liberty.

Softest nappa leather "bottle" coats in airforce blue only £320 (£895), three quarter length khaki leather jackets with wool bouclé linings £500 (£727) and 30 per cent off all leatherware and accessories (except black). Loewe.

Flat brown lace-ups, Pinstripe, £19.99 (£33.99); Charles Jourdan taupe court shoes, Eloise £45.99 (£89.50); classic black Bally courts £35.99 (£69.99). Russell & Bromley.

Yves St Laurent and most Rayne shoes half price, including navy court with patterned toe cap illustrated £49.50 (£79.50). Rayne.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

Dolman-sleeved acrylic jumpers in cream, red or bright blue, sizes 8-10 and 12-14 £5.99 (£7.99); check skirt, blue only, same sizes £4.99 (£8.99); Victorian-style dress in blue or black heavy cotton with tiny flower print and plain white cambray over-panels, for ages two to five, £7.99 (£9.99); white nylon lace trunks to wear with it, 99p (£1.49) both illustrated. Debenhams.

Bright blue acrylic crew neck sweatshirt with grey cotton shoulder insert (or pink with grey) 90cm, 100cm and 110cm £2.99 (£3.75), grey jogging suit with red yoke, acrylic/polyester, 90cm to 140cm £4.99 to £5.99 (£8.50 to £7.50). Mothercare.

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IN THE GARDEN

Popularity and practicality. For many people, 1984 turned out to be the year of the geranium. It is only in the last twelve months that many of the new varieties have received the attention they deserve. Now I am looking forward eagerly to the new cascade forms being perfected; at the moment they flower well but difficulties have been experienced in achieving the full cascade effect. The F2 geraniums are much cheaper than the F1s and are much the same provided you buy the right varieties.

Geraniums may get the popular vote, but for me the success of the year has been *Spathiphyllum Mauna Loa*, an indoor plant which has flowered almost ceaselessly for the last six months. I used to try *S. wallisii*, but it was often more trouble than it was worth; this new hybrid is infinitely better. It flourishes in a room which is warm and has good light in winter.

Another great step forward in 1984 has been the decision of most seed firms to offer young plantlets for sale. Many gardeners have no greenhouse in which to raise their own plants now, instead of having to buy plants ready for planting out, you can get the firms to deliver young seedlings to your house. You can then grow them on for the garden either in a cold frame or a very sheltered site.

There have also been significant improvements in the quality of machinery on the market. Most welcome of all is the new Victor Vortex mower, which is by far the quietest rotary I have tried and works well in all sorts of garden, no matter how bumpy your lawn might be.

The lack of rain over the summer created problems over watering, so the appearance of the Hosecraft ASL irrigation system was particularly welcome.

System watering is both more efficient than traditional methods and saves water. It is also easier, thanks to the Phospray Dilutor, a two-gallon watering can which enables water and feed to be sprayed on to the plants simultaneously and at the correct rate.

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EATING OUT

Food for thoughts of the year. As 1984 draws to a close we look back on the year's catering trends, look forward with the 1985 Good Food Guide, and list these restaurants which we liked most over the year.

In a year when a survey revealed that British restaurant-going habits are largely unchanged from the 1950s - beef, lamb, chicken, fish, and the occasional steak and kidney - the main minus points of the restaurant-going year have continued to be the changes for selections of vegetables, the outer limits of nouvelle cuisine (the Mango Sauce Syndrome) and the snobbery-inspired retention of menus written in arcane French terminology.

A simple revenge on the last offence is to insist on complete translations of every dish from the waiters.

The themed pubs are also involved in another influential strand of development - all day/all purpose restaurants - which, in turn, are increasing pressure for more flexible licensing laws. With the successful expansion of drinking hours in Scotland offering supportive evidence, it may yet be possible to snack and tippie *la Française* in England well before the 21st century.

If asked to offer a quick list of plus marks, I would point to the increase in "fixed-price" "no hidden extras" menus offering value for money; to the much improved standard of food being served in wine bars; to the emphasis more restaurants are placing on the freshness and quality of their ingredients (menus that change daily are a sign of that); and to the rise of ethnic restaurants.

Yet the development that may in the long-run offer a greater threat to the stranglehold of Messrs Prawn, Steak and Gateau, is the expansion of pub catering. Squeezed by the fast-food outlets on one side and by the slick cocktail and wine bars on the other, most of the major breweries have introduced "theming".

This usually involves transforming an innocuous suburban pub into a "conceptualized" combination of bars, family eating areas and games rooms. While the food in most theme pubs is as yet cautious - although finding steak teriyaki in a Metroland bistro is a pleasant surprise - these places can alter popular taste.

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Restaurant of the Year: Inigo Jones, 14 Garrick Street, London WC2 (896 6468). Wine Bar of the Year: The Wine Gallery, 49 Hollywood Road, London SW10 (352 7572). Pub of the Year: The George, 4 South Street, Brixton, Dorset (0308 23187). Vegetarian Restaurant of the Year: Sabras, 283 Willesden High Road, London NW10 (459 0340). Ethnic Restaurant of the Year: Mandala, 100 Greenwich South Street, London SE10 (891 0443). Brasserie of the Year: Café Pelican, 45 St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (879 0309). Best Set Lunch: Tante Claire, 58 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (352 8045). Best Set Dinner: Le Petit Blanc, 272 Brompton Road, Oxford (0865 53540). Best Sunday Lunch: Chalk's, 49 Chalk Street, London NW1 (722 1955). Best Breakfast: Coffee House, Inter-Continental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1 (405 3131).

Stan Hey.

Stan Hey.

Stan Hey.

Stan Hey.

REVIEW

Anthony Masters reviews the past year on the British stage while Geoff Brown looks forward to the film productions of 1985

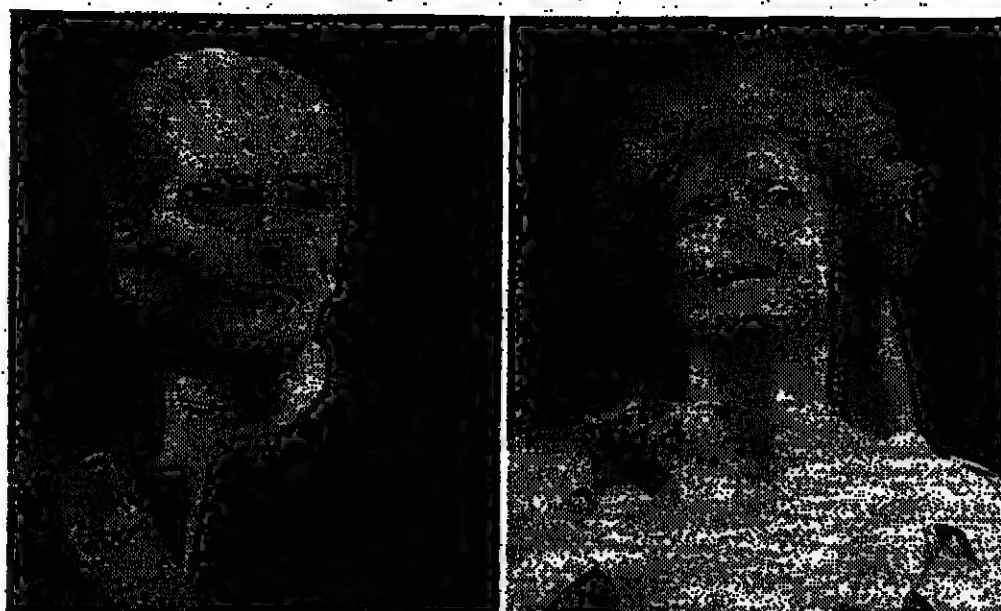
Actors made the plays on words

Performances will be my abiding memory of 1984, not plays. Many of our best playwrights, from Stoppard and Simon Gray to Stephen Lowe and Doug Lucie, came badly unstuck this year, but performers shone. Some all to briefly: Alan Bates as the chilling interrogator in Pinter's *One for the Road*, Brian Cox giving another prisoner the heavy verbal treatment in *Rat in the Skull* or humbly courting Glenda Jackson through the nine acts of *Strange Interlude*, Nicholas McAuliffe as Wesker's three Anities in *Annie Widdler* and an imperiously condescending Widow Quin in *The Playboy of the Western World*.

But many, happily, are still on show. Anthony Sher's dazzling Richard III will run for a few more performances at Stratford before, we hope, transferring to London. Benjamin Whitrow in *A Little Hotel on the Side* is still giving the funniest Feydeau performance for ages. Opposite a new leading man, the suave German Craven is repeating her brilliantly original and witty reading of the multiple-murdering Irish nurse in *Loot*. And in *The Way of the World* at the Haymarket, Maggie Smith and John Moffatt dignify a great comedy with performances of classic perfection.

The Way of the World is rather on my conscience, as an unreasonably late start left me little time to give individuals their due. The pleasure of seeing Maggie Smith's unique comic delivery was something we took for granted. But her genius for turning modest lines into gems of wit and inconsequence thrives in the greatest role in English artificial comedy.

If the production as a whole, since its recasting for London, sells the play's troubled and disturbing side short, she makes that woman's fight to preserve her integrity and freedom in a threatening world — using that

Great and gifted: Robert Edson in *Phedra* and Maggie Smith in *The Way of the World*

The year started for him (and for me) in Tiverton, where the RSC's two pocket touring productions had settled for a few days in a school sports hall. Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, like *Theremene* in *Phedra*, proved a worthy subject for his most individual gifts — spiritual authority, wisdom, delicacy and kindness, and verse speaking of the greatest beauty and subtlety.

He seemed, in the RSC productions, to spend both plays trying to keep uncontrol-

lable people in order: one night the young lovers, the next a stageful of rehearsing mechanics in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in which he played Peter Quince. Amateur dramatics are a very serious business and his directorial despair, silently mouthing the lines for Pyramus and Thisbe in performance, winning at every faux pas and pulling out his hanky for the sad bits. Never for a moment did he suggest he might be acting in a comedy, which explains why it was so funny.

The year's end is a time when we know few future plans. Could we, one day, see Miss Smith and Mr Edson together? She must conquer Millamant's French counterpart, Céleste in *Le Misanthrope*. Philinte is the essence of Edson's sweet reason, and John Moffatt could do wonders with one on those concealed marriages. Well, it will do for a midwinter night's dream.

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A passage to greater screen images

Forgive me if you're feeling satiated, but might I turn your attention to Christmas 1985? It falls next year on December 25 — a safe enough choice of date — and other traditions seem certain to be maintained. Television sets will groan under the burden of old Hollywood blockbusters, animal adventures, vintage comedians, and the odd animated delight from Finland. Cinemas, in turn, will entice customers with Disney revivals, animal adventures, and new Hollywood blockbusters. One of them, definitely, will be *Santa Claus The Movie*, the latest venture of the Salkind family, recently responsible for Superman's screen exploits.

The film has been in production throughout the year at Pinewood studios and suitable locations in Greenland, Norway and elsewhere, though mist shrouds the plot. We are promised, at least, Dudley Moore as the principal elf, lots of reindeers, and David Huddleston as Santa. Executive producer Rya Salkind naturally breathes nothing but good news: "This film should appeal to every possible category of human being," he declared last March. Heavens, does this include critics?

At this date it is hard to pin down other seasonal offerings; much depends on the way films perform at the American box office. Throughout the year, however, we may expect to see many formula entertainments, built on the bones of past successes: small-town horror in *Polygraph 11*; *Boy's Own Paper* heroics in *Wild Geese II*; another James Bond adventure, *A View to a Kill*; a 2001 sequel, *2010*, with return appearances by the rebellious computer HAL and the mysterious black monolith, though not, unfortunately, by director Stanley Kubrick. At some time, too, we will be faced with a third version of Rider Haggard's war horse *King Solomon's Mines*.

Star attraction: Judy Davis in *A Passage to India*, directed by David Lean, due here in March

If the last prospect makes the heart sink to the boots, there are many many others guaranteed to restore happiness, and some are just around the corner. After January 16, we can enjoy Milos Forman's version of *Amadeus*, a two and a half hour feast of brilliantly juggled music and drama, with fine acting from some unknown players. In the hands of Tom Hulse, Mozart appears as "the John McEnroe of classical music", to quote one American critic.

Amadeus occupies the silver screen with majesty; the same may be expected of David Lean's version of E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, just unveiled in America and due here some time in March. In the 14 years since the director's last film, *Ryan's Daughter*, cinema fashions have moved steadily away from Lean's slow, meticulous narrative style. But audiences should certainly relish the visual opulence and the acting; Judy Davis appears as the young

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English girl who accuses a cultivated Indian doctor of attempted rape, while Peggy Ashcroft plays her elderly companion, Mrs Moore.

While Lean diligently seeks ways of conveying a famous novel to the screen, other directors are creating novels directly for the cinema. Take Edgar Keitz and his remarkable film *Uranus*, due for a month's run at the Lumiere in London from February 16. For 15 hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds, we observe life in a German village from 1919 to 1982.

What else? Francis Coppola's latest enterprise, *The Cotton Club*, will make its grand appearance. Woody Allen will be among us with *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, though solely as a

director, its subject, as usual with Allen, is presently wrapped in secrecy. We can also expect new films from Kurosawa (*Ran*, a 16th-century spectacle with overtones of *King Lear*), Godard (*Déjà Vu*) and Jacques Rivette (*Waterlily Heights*, in a French setting). Films are also in the pipeline from Fellini (*Ginger and Fred*, about a middle-aged dance team trying to make a television comeback), and Wim Wenders (a science-fiction story, *To the End of the World*).

But where, in all this, is Britain? March 1985 sees the launch of British Film Year. The aim is to push up Britain's dropping admission figures by at least 40 per cent, and the organizers have coined a rather gentlemanly slogan: "Cinema: The Best Place to See a Film". It is indeed, though all the smiling ticket-tearers in the world cannot rescue a bad film. Let us drink, at any rate, to the good ones.

Film listings p16

Max Bell turns back the rock clock

Scollywags and worthy causes

It was the year Frankie Goes To Hollywood got the pundits and punters talking. Without being tied down to a marketing production or even a purely musical format, the scallywags from Liverpool got under the music industry's thick skin and made it itch.

Partially as a riposte and also to save a long overdue social conscience some of the supergroups — Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran, and Wham! among others — retaliated by convening the Band Aid project for a worthy cause though the single they produced is no musical milestone.

George Michael of Wham! proved himself to be an accomplished tunesmith and Duran held a steady course both with their yachting activities and their world wide fan club. They kept themselves in the full glare of the media spotlight by being accused of all sorts of naughtiness in the tabloids and getting married. They satisfied all the requirements of that dubious calling, being full-time celebrities.

Boy George of Culture Club was anywhere and everywhere, from *Woman* magazine to *Cosmopolitan*. Critics claim he

will suffer from this over exposure (too long in the sun perhaps), but George, like the weather, is a conversation piece. Expect him to host a chat show before the beginning of 1990.

With all the bawling of genders in the market place, most people gave up trying to distinguish between the girls and the boys. Paul Weller, the Style Council savant, when asked if he thought George's pal Marlyn was pretty, replied: "No, he looks like a bricklayer".

Agit pop made a late comeback with The Redskins and The Three Johns popping up here and there with Paul Weller (again) ready to comment that his peers were merely preaching to the converted. Sade and Alison Moyet kept their heads screwed on and sold a lot of records to boutiques and to people with coffee tables, while those sated with the whole pop process could have opted for a spot of breaking, contorting themselves to the clubs' hit lists of electro and hip hop, or pretending to be *ex libris* with the "new jazz" — whatever that was. The Sheffield band Play Joy may provide a definition soon. Everything But The Girl and

Working Week made use of Latin influences. New American bands resumed normal service after a delay of 10 years: British clubs throbbed to the unpretentious, energetic punk of Jason and the Scorchers, R.E.M. and Violent Femmes. The British sense of superiority was further undone by the rising stars of Australian music, the Triffids and the Madonnas.

Scottish bands were in the thick of it again; Lloyd Cole and the Commotions and Aztec Camera both deserve a mention — articulate, exciting outfits who kept the folk/troubadour candle burning.

The most enduring memory of the year came early, at the ICA's Big Brother week when the German troupe Elastrazende Neubaten constructed their sheet metal music before a startled audience. Perhaps because of their chain-saws, Neubaten remain the only metal band who give a performance where one can actually smell the instruments. An awesome experience that was. The Sheffield band Play Joy may provide a definition soon. Everything But The Girl and

Which records were the biggest hits with Saturday's music critics in 1984? From swing to soul and film scores, we report the results...

Classical and Jazz by Max Harrison

- 1 Complete Pacific Jazz Small Group Recordings of Art Pepper (Mosaic MR3-105, 3 LPs) Pepper's lyrical intensity in small and medium-sized contexts.
- 2 Pure Genius Art Tatum (Affinity AFD118, 2 LPs) Early and mid-period work by the greatest jazz pianist.
- 3 Kansas City Revisited (United Artists 5008) Sophisticated recollections of Mid-Western jazz.
- 4 Katanga Curtis Amy/Dupree Bolton (Affinity AFD128) Features Dupree Bolton, one of jazz's best, and least recorded, trumpeters.
- 5 Paris Concert Vol 2 Bill Evans (Elektra Musician 960311-1) Cool, quiet and very beautiful piano improvisations from 1979.
- 6 Live in Europe 1961 Jimmy Giuffrè Trio (Rarestone 5018FC) Intense pastel tones, an algebric sense of form...

Rock and Jazz by Richard Williams

- 1 Once Upon a Time in America Ennio Morricone (Mercury MERH 45) Dreams and regret tussle for air in this ravishing suite by a composer whose work is none the worse for its humble origin.
- 2 St Thomas Sonny Rollins (Dragon DRP 73) At this Swedish concert in 1959, with keen-eyed support from bass and drums, the master tenor saxophonist was at his most fertile and compelling.
- 3 Cry To Me Solomon Burke (Charly CRB 1075) Imperfectly compiled but still essential anthology of intense soul sermons, including the definitive



version of Dylan's "Maggie's Farm".

- 4 Acheing Dire Straights (Vertigo VRY 11) A gripping summary of the career of a great rock band, with guitar solos of unexampled melodic value.
- 5 Jumpin' in Dave Holland (ECM 1255) A vivacious cocktail of old and new, Holland's quintet is jazz's most likeable new group.
- 6 Frank Sinatra Sings for Only the Lonely (Capitol ED 26-138-1) Nelson Riddle at his most inspired sets the Voice (in its 1958 prime) within a dozen superlative ballads.
- 7 No ring-a-ding merriment in this masterpiece.
- 8 Nelson Riddle at his most inspired sets the Voice (in its 1958 prime) within a dozen superlative ballads.
- 9 No ring-a-ding merriment in this masterpiece.
- 10 Nelson Riddle at his most inspired sets the Voice (in its 1958 prime) within a dozen superlative ballads.

Rock by Max Bell

- 1 Welcome To This Pleasurezone Frankie Goes To Hollywood (ZTT 101) Mocks *disco* with outrageous classic dancefloor singles and enough well orchestrated mayhem to last a teeny-bop lifetime.
- 2 The Smiths (Rough 61) The Rolling Stones' Oscar Wilde, the Moors Murders, Saturday Night and Sunday

CHESS

Gripping art of constriction

It was good to see English players well to the fore in this year's Regency Masters tournament which was held at Ramsgate earlier this month. The tournament was a strong one including no less than four international grandmasters and 14 international masters. It is true that none of the grandmasters, Forintos and Lengyel (Hungary), Mednis and Shamkovich (United States) were particularly formidable, but the general level was quite high and strong.

Four players tied for first place with 6½ points: Carlier (The Netherlands), Forintos (Hungary), Croton (The Netherlands) and Martin (England). Hebdon (England), Knopert (The Netherlands) and Povah (England) scored 6 and there was a tie for the next place between Bles and Peelen (The Netherlands) and Mednis (United States) with 5½; next, all with 5, came Ady and Dunnington (England), Culpers, Harloch and Janssen (The Netherlands), King and Littlewood (England), Ravikumar (India), Solomon (Australia) and grandmaster Shamkovich (United States).

Here, from round 9, is a fine and most unusual example of the art of constriction achieved by the Canadian master Hebert (with some unwitting collaboration by his adversary).

White: J. Hebert. Black: J. Ady. English opening. 1 P-Q4 2 N-K3 3 B-N3 4 P-K3 5 P-Q4 6 P-Q4 7 P-Q4 8 P-Q4 9 P-Q4 10 P-Q4 11 P-Q4 12 P-Q4 13 P-Q4 14 P-Q4 15 P-Q4 16 P-Q4 17 P-Q4 18 P-Q4 19 P-Q4 20 P-Q4 21 P-Q4 22 P-Q4 23 P-Q4 24 P-Q4 25 P-Q4 26 P-Q4 27 P-Q4 28 P-Q4 29 P-Q4 30 P-Q4 31 P-Q4 32 P-Q4 33 P-Q4 34 P-Q4 35 P-Q4 36 P-Q4 37 P-Q4 38 P-Q4 39 P-Q4 40 P-Q4 41 P-Q4 42 P-Q4 43 P-Q4 44 P-Q4 45 P-Q4 46 P-Q4 47 P-Q4 48 P-Q4 49 P-Q4 50 P-Q4 51 P-Q4 52 P-Q4 53 P-Q4 54 P-Q4 55 P-Q4 56 P-Q4 57 P-Q4 58 P-Q4 59 P-Q4 60 P-Q4 61 P-Q4 62 P-Q4 63 P-Q4 64 P-Q4 65 P-Q4 66 P-Q4 67 P-Q4 68 P-Q4 69 P-Q4 70 P-Q4 71 P-Q4 72 P-Q4 73 P-Q4 74 P-Q4 75 P-Q4 76 P-Q4 77 P-Q4 78 P-Q4 79 P-Q4 80 P-Q4 81 P-Q4 82 P-Q4 83 P-Q4 84 P-Q4 85 P-Q4 86 P-Q4 87 P-Q4 88 P-Q4 89 P-Q4 90 P-Q4 91 P-Q4 92 P-Q4 93 P-Q4 94 P-Q4 95 P-Q4 96 P-Q4 97 P-Q4 98 P-Q4 99 P-Q4 100 P-Q4 101 P-Q4 102 P-Q4 103 P-Q4 104 P-Q4 105 P-Q4 106 P-Q4 107 P-Q4 108 P-Q4 109 P-Q4 110 P-Q4 111 P-Q4 112 P-Q4 113 P-Q4 114 P-Q4 115 P-Q4 116 P-Q4 117 P-Q4 118 P-Q4 119 P-Q4 120 P-Q4 121 P-Q4 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THE TIMES

Calendar of world sport 1985

Picture by Chris Smith

ANGLING

May 12-18: Seelink coarse fishing festival, Erne, Co Fermanagh
May 26: International fly fishing spring competition, Chew Valley Lake
July 28: National Federation of Anglers first division competition, Leeds and Liverpool Canal
August 17: National Federation of Anglers second division competition, River Witham
Aug 26: International fly fishing autumn competition, Loch of Harray, Orkney
Sept 7: Confederation of English Fly Fishers' competition, Grafton
Sept 11/12: Benson and Hedges fly fishing competition, Bewl Bridge
Sept 14: National Federation of Anglers third division competition, Thames, Oxford
Sept 28: National Federation of Anglers fourth division competition, Trent, Newark
October 12: National Federation of Anglers fifth division competition, Trent, Newark
Oct 26/27: Home international boat sea angling championship, Ayr

ARCHERY

Mar 31: National indoor championships, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton
May 25/26: All British and open field archery championships, Rhonda
June 15/16: UK Masters tournament, Leamington Spa
June 26/27: Grand national archery meeting (inaugurated 1844), Worcester College, Oxford
July 6/7: Junior FITA mail match and junior national championships, Leamington Spa
July 27: National club championships Leamington Spa
Aug 10/11: British target championships, Leamington Spa

ATHLETICS

Jan 5: Mullusk international cross country, Belfast
Jan 11/12: Cosford indoor games, Cosford
Jan 18/19: World indoor games, Paris

Jan 19: Men's and women's international cross-country, Nottingham
Jan 25/26: AAA/WAAA indoor championships, Cosford
Jan 26: N Ireland cross country championships, Bangor
Feb 3: Women's European club cross country, Madrid
Feb 3: Men's European club cross country, Algarve, Portugal
Feb 5: English area cross country championships
Feb 16: English women's cross country championships, Birkbehead

Feb 16: Welsh women's cross country championships, Cardiff
Feb 22: Inter-services cross country championships, Aldershot
Feb 23: Scottish men's cross country championships, Edinburgh
Feb 24: Scottish women's cross country championships, Rosyth
Feb 24: Welsh AAA/WAAA indoor championships, St Athan

Mar 2: European indoor championships, Athens
Mar 3: English men's cross country championships, Milton Keynes
Mar 8: England v USA indoor, Cosford
Mar 15-17: AAA/WAAA junior indoor championships, Cosford
Mar 23: English schools cross country championships, Norwich
Mar 24: Pearl half-marathon, Fleet
Mar 24: World cross country championships, Lisbon

Mar 31: Pearl half-marathon, Thameshead
Apr 13: Welsh AAA/WAAA indoor championships, St Athan
Apr 13: Pearl half-marathon, Belfast
Apr 13/14: World Marathon Cup, Hiroshima
Apr 21: London Marathon
Apr 27: AAA 12 Stage road relay, Sutton Coldfield

May 4: English schools race walking championships, Keswick
May 5: Pearl half-marathon, Liverpool
May 5: Italy v GB & NI in Spain
May 5/6: Universities championships, Crystal Palace
May 6: Spanish international meeting, Tokyo
May 18: Scottish women's EastWest meeting, Meadowbank
May 25: Scottish Cup semi-final, Coatbridge
May 25/26: United Kingdom championships, Antrim
June 1: Northern WAAA championships, Stroud
June 1 or 2: Midland WAAA championships, Perry Barr
June 1/2: Southern WAAA championships, Hendon
June 2: Women's European club championships, Zurich
June 8: Scotland v England v Yugoslavia in Belgium
June 8/9: Denmark v GB & NI in Canada combined events, Jutland
June 8/9: Men's European club championships, Harrogate
June 15/16: Sweden v GB & NI in Norway walks, Borås
June 21: England v USA men, Birmingham
June 21-23: Scottish AAA/WAAA championships, Meadowbank
June 22/23: Welsh championships, Cwmbran

June 24: Uster Games, Belfast
June 27: Oslo Games, Oslo
June 28: GB & NI v France v Czechoslovakia, Gateshead
June 30: Fanny Blankers-Koen Games, Hengelo, Netherlands
July 6/7: GB & NI v East Germany in Japan, Birmingham
July 7: Cork City Sports, Cork
July 10: Scottish schools championships, Aldershot
July 12: Paris international meeting, Paris
July 12/13: English schools championships, Hull
July 13/14: AAA championships, Crystal Palace
July 13/14: Hungary v England v Austria v Greece v Poland, Budapest
July 20: British schools international, Ireland
July 20/21: AAA decathlon, Birmingham
July 20 or 21: Welsh Games, Swansea
July 25: Edinburgh Games, Edinburgh
July 25/27: Women's AAA championships, Birmingham
Aug 2: Women's under-23 international, Middlesbrough
Aug 3 or 10: Celtic women's international, Swansea



Splashing out: Adrian Moorhouse, British, European and Commonwealth 100m breaststroke champion, had a disappointing Olympics. Will he retain his European title at Sofia in August?

BOBSLEIGH TOBOGGAN

Jan 1-6: Nations Cup bobsleigh, Igls, Austria
Jan 14-17: World bobsleigh championships, Cervinia, Italy
Jan 21-Feb 3: Junior European bobsleigh championships, Igls, Austria
Feb 2-10: Cresta Run centenary gala week, St Moritz
Feb 11/12: British open wild water racing championships, Bala
May 25/26: British racing open championships, Nottingham
June 8-9: Wild water world championships, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, W Germany
June 12-16: Slalom world championships, Augsburg
June 15/16: International regatta, Nottingham
July 22: International Marathon, River Tay, Scotland
July 25-28: Junior racing world championships, Rome
Aug 15-18: Senior racing world championships, Meckelen, Belgium
Oct 13/20: British slalom open championships, Llangollen
Oct 25/27: International slalom, Llangollen

BOWLS

Feb 5-10: World championship, Coatbridge
Mar 5-8: Home international indoor series and British Isles championships, Swansea
Mar 18-23: English indoor championship, Hartlepool
May 31-June 2: Gateway Masters tournament, Worthing
June 25-July 6: Women's home international series and British Isles championships, Edinburgh
July 7-12: Men's home international series and British Isles championships, Worthing
Aug 5-14: English women's championships, Llangollen
Oct 11-13: English men's championships, Worthing

BADMINTON

Jan 31: England Select v Scotland
Feb 2: Dutch Open
Feb 8: England under-23 v Holland
Feb 18-23: Essex championships, Redbridge
Mar 1-3: National junior championships, London
Mar 2: German Open, Dusseldorf
Mar 16: Swedish Open, Malmö
Mar 20-24: All-England, Wembley
Mar 25/26: All-England v Sweden in Denmark (under-23)
Apr 2-7: English national championships, Coventry

BASKETBALL

Jan 1: World invitation club championships, finals, Crystal Palace
Jan 7: Kellogg's Cup final, Royal Albert Hall, London
Feb 13: Switzerland v England, Wembley
Feb 14: Denmark v GB & NI v Canada combined events, Jutland
Feb 24: Anglo Scottish Cup final, first leg
Mar 3: Anglo Scottish Cup final, second leg
Mar 30/31: National championship play-offs, Wembley
Nov 21: World Cup: Czechoslovakia v England
Nov 28: World Cup: England v Israel

BILLIARDS, SNOOKER

Jan 27-Feb 3: Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament, Wembley Conference Centre
Feb 17-Mar 3: Dux English Open snooker championship, Assembly Rooms, Derby
Mar 11-17: World Professional billiards snooker tournament, Hutton Grange (prov)
Apr 12-28: Embassy world professional snooker championship, Sheffield
The leading event in the snooker calendar will be contested over 17 days by the top players from the four home countries, as well as Canada, Australia and South Africa, with Steve Davis trying to win the title for the third year running. Tickets from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (0742 79922).
Sept 20-Oct 6: Jameson Whiskey international snooker tournament, Newcastle (prov)
Oct 15-27: Rothmans Grand Prix snooker tournament, Reading (prov)
Nov 16-Dec 1: Coral UK snooker championship, Preston (prov)

Oct 16-21: Young East Germany v Young England, Schwerin
Oct 22-28: East Germany v England, Rostock
Nov 29-Dec 6: Canada Cup Expo '85, Canada

CANOEING

Feb 23/24: International canoe polo championships, Crystal Palace
May 11/12: British open wild water racing championships, Bala
May 25/26: British racing open championships, Nottingham
June 8-9: Wild water world championships, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, W Germany
June 12-16: Slalom world championships, Augsburg
June 15/16: International regatta, Nottingham
July 22: International Marathon, River Tay, Scotland
July 25-28: Junior racing world championships, Rome
Aug 15-18: Senior racing world championships, Meckelen, Belgium
Oct 13/20: British slalom open championships, Llangollen
Oct 25/27: International slalom, Llangollen

CRICKET

World Championship of Cricket
Feb 17: Australia v England, Melbourne
Feb 19: India v Pakistan, Melbourne
Feb 20: NZ v Sri Lanka, Melbourne
Feb 21: Australia v Pakistan, Melbourne
Feb 22: England v India, Sydney
Feb 27: Sri Lanka v West Indies, Melbourne
Mar 2: England v Pakistan, Melbourne
Mar 3: Australia v India, Melbourne
Mar 5: First semi-final, Sydney
Mar 6: Second semi-final, Melbourne
Mar 9: Final, Sydney
Mar 10: Final, Melbourne
Mar 11: Final, Sydney
Mar 12: Final, Melbourne
Mar 13: Final, Sydney
Mar 14: Final, Melbourne
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Dec 31: Final, Melbourne

CROQUET

May 11/12: Golf croquet championship, Fyvie Court
May 25/26: Great Britain v USA, Nottingham
May 30-June 2: County championship, Southwick
May 31-June 2: Great Britain v USA, Hurlingham and Roehampton
June 15/16: Home internationals, Sudbury, Devon
June 17-22: Men's and women's championships, Cheltenham
July 13-20: Open championship, Hurlingham
Sept 7-7: President's Cup, Hurlingham

EQUESTRIANISM

April 17-21: Show jumping World Cup final, Berlin
April 18-21: Badminton horse trials, Gloucestershire
April 30-May 5: Rome Nations Cup, Italy
May 9-12: Windsor Horse Show, Berkshire
May 11-15: Madrid Nations Cup, Spain
May 24-28: Carriage driving

GLIDING

June 15-23: National open class championships, Lasham Airfield, Alton
July 13-21: National 15 metre championships, Booker Airfield, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire
July 27-Aug 11: World championships, Rieti, Italy
Aug 10-18: National standard class championships, Husbands Bosworth Airfield, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire

GOLF

Mar 9: Berkshire Amateur Trophy, Berkshire
Mar 15-21: Avia women's foursomes, The Berkshire
Mar 25-29: Sunningdale Foursomes, Sunningdale
Apr 14-14: US Masters, Augusta
Apr 25-28: Madrid Open, Madrid
May 2-5: Italian Open, Milan
May 4/5: Lytham Amateur Trophy, Royal Lytham & St Annes
May 9-12: Car Care Plan, Moortown, Leeds
May 16-18: Times Open, La Touque, France
May 17-19: Brabazon Amateur Trophy, Seaton Carrow
May 24-27: Whyte & Mackay PGA championship, Woburn
May 30-June 2: Four Stars national pro-Celebrity, Moor Park
June 3-8: Amateur championship, Royal Donaghadee
June 6-8: Dunhill British Masters, Woburn
June 13-16: Jersey Open, La Moye
June 13-16: US Open, Oakland Hills, Birmingham, Michigan
June 15/16: Berkshire Amateur Trophy, Berkshire
June 20-23: Carrolls Irish Open, Royal Dublin
June 26-30: European men's amateur team championship, Halmstad, Sweden
June 27-30: Monte Carlo Open, Monte Carlo
July 4-7: French Open, St Germain-en-Laye, Paris
July 18-21: Open championship, Royal St. George's
Will it be Sebastian Ballesteros or Tom Watson who wins the 114th Open Championship? The Spaniard and the American have dominated golf's prestige attraction in recent times. Ballesteros won in 1979 when he regained the title at St Andrews last summer. Watson, winner in 1975, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1983, seeks to equal Harry Vardon's record six wins. Coincidentally, the only new name to go on the trophy in the last six years was when the championship was last staged at Royal St George's - where it returns this summer - and America's Bill Rogers won. Ballesteros, however, won the PGA Championship on the Kent links in 1983 and Nick Faldo, chasing a first British win since Tony Jacklin in 1969, also triumphed there in 1980. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (RFA, KT16 9JD) offers discount tickets at £30 until January 31; £33 from Feb 1 to May 31; before the price goes to £36. Other tickets: Daily-Sun, Mon - £1; Tues, Wed - £4; Thurs-Sun, £3. Additional tickets: Reserved Stand (18th Green) Weekly Ticket - £35. Club Tent (access to private catering and bar facilities) - £25.
July 25-28: Dutch Open, Noordwijk
July 29-Aug 3: English amateur championship, Little Aston
Aug 4-6: Scandinavian Open, Stockholm
Aug 8-11: Glasgow Open, Haggis Castle
Aug 8-11: US PGA championship, Cherry Hills, Denver
Aug 15-18: Benson and Hedges international, Rufford, York
Aug 21/22: Walker Cup, Pine Valley, New Jersey
Aug 22-25: German Open, Bremen
Aug 29-Sept 1: Panasonic European Open, Sunningdale
Sept 5-8: European Masters, Crans-sur-Sierra
Sept 13-15: Bell's Scotch Ryder Cup matches, The Belfry
Sept 19-22: Sanyo Open, El Prat, Barcelona
Sept 25-28: Sunbury world match play championship, Wentworth
Oct 3-6: Lanchester Trophy, St Norla Brecheux, Paris
Oct 24-27: Spanish Open, Alcantara, Barcelona
Oct 31-Nov 3: Portuguese Open, Quinta do Lago, Algarve

FENCING

All events at de Beaumont Centre, West Kensington, London
Jan 5/6: Under-20 women's foil championships, London
Jan 27/28: Men's epee championship
Feb 2/3: Women's foil international
Feb 8-10: Challenge Martini international epee and matches
May 4/5: Miller Hallett international Epee
May 18/19: Men's and women's foil championships
June 8/9: Epee Team Championships
June 15/16: Sabre individual and team championships
Dec 14/15: Men's foil team championships

FOOTBALL

Jan 5: FA Cup, third round
Jan 16: Milk Cup, fourth round
Feb 6: Milk Cup semi-final, first leg
Feb 13: Milk Cup semi-final, second leg
Feb 16: FA Cup, fifth round
Mar 6: European cups, quarter-finals, first leg
Mar 13: European cups, quarter-finals, second leg
Mar 20: European cups, quarter-finals, second leg
Mar 24: Milk Cup final, Wembley
Mar 26: England v Republic of Ireland, Wembley
Apr 10: European cups, semi-finals, first leg
Apr 13: FA Cup semi-finals
Apr 24: European cups, semi-finals, second leg
May 8: UEFA Cup final, first leg
May 15: European Cup Winners' Cup final, Rotterdam
May 16: FA Cup final, Wembley
The traditional showpiece of the English season and the only fixture guaranteed to take place in front of a capacity crowd. Everton are the current holders of the oldest football trophy in the world, having defeated Watford in the 1984 final; they start their defence against Leeds United on Jan 5. Tickets are available only through clubs; the bulk are allocated to the two finalists.
May 22: UEFA Cup final, second leg
May 28: European Cup final, Brussels
June 8: Italy v England, Mexico City
June 9: Mexico v England, Mexico City
June 12: West Germany v England, Mexico City
World Cup (see panel)

HANDBALL

Feb 19-Mar 3: World championship, B group, men, Norway
Mar 9/10: English National Trophy final, first leg
Mar 16/17: English National Trophy final, second leg
International Cup, Dublin
Apr 13/14: European Cup, finals, first legs
Apr 20/21: European Cup, finals, second legs
May 4/5: Scotland v England, Wistow (prov)
June 8: British Cup finals, East Kilbride
Aug 16-18: Quadrangular international tournament, Birmingham (prov)
Oct 15-30: World championship, under-21, women
Nov 24: City of Leicester triangular tournament
Dec 1-15: World championship, under-21, men, Italy
World championship, B group, women

HANG GLIDING

Mar 28-31: British League competition first round
Apr 12-15: British League competition second round
Apr 20-23: Brierley Cup, UK v France
May 10-13: British League competition third round
May 20-June 5: World championships, Austria
June 10-16: Lariano Triangle, Italy

A grand new circuit

The athletics highlight of 1985 is the first International Grand Prix, to be contested over 16 meetings in Western and Eastern Europe and the United States. The significance of the venture is that the sports agencies and marketing groups which have such a hold on, for example, tennis, have been short circuited by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the sport's governing body, which is running the Grand Prix with sponsorship from Mobil.

The IAAF has won another considerable victory in persuading the Eastern block countries to whom overt professionalism is anathema, to join in. Three of this season's meetings will be in socialist countries. The trick has been to institute "athletics funds", by which an athlete's earnings are, theoretically, paid to the national federation, to be drawn back out again for "coaching, housing, education, travel etc".

The biggest independent meetings, most of which take place in Western Europe, have been incorporated on the Grand Prix circuit, thereby also forging a successful

close link between the promoters and the IAAF. The standing of British officials is quite as high as that of British athletes, for it is an achievement to have secured two of the 16 meetings - the Peugeot Talbot Games on July 19, and the IAC/Coca Cola Meeting on August 2, both at Crystal Palace.

Athletes will still be paid their normal "participation money" at these meetings, but the points system and the potential prize money at the end of the season will give the sport a continuity that it has lacked. However, with the top prize on the circuit only \$25,000 - the sort of money that Carl Lewis can command for a single meeting - it remains to be seen whether the top performers will be prepared to fulfil all the requirements for making the final.

The world's top 50 athletes in each event, according to ranking lists (which will be kept updated) will be eligible to compete. In odd-numbered years, starting this year, the events will be: Men: 200m,

400m, 1,500m, 110m hurdles, pole vault, long jump, discus, javelin; women: 100m, 800m, 3,000m, high jump, shot put, long jump. Sixteen in all, with nine for men. In even-numbered years, the events will be: men: 100m, 800m, 10,000m, 3,000m steeplechase, 400m hurdles, high jump, triple jump, shot put, hammer; women: 200m, 400m, 1,500m, 5,000m, 100m hurdles, discus, javelin.

Points will be awarded from nine for first in each event, seven points for second down to one point for eighth. There will be an additional six points for breaking a world record, and three points for equalling it. In the Grand Prix final, the scoring will be double, including the world records. The points from a maximum of five meetings on the circuit can be accumulated - by any one athlete. And at the end of the series, the eight athletes in each event with the highest number of points will be invited to the final. Qualified athletes can compete in more than one event, but only the

points from the five best performances will count towards the overall Grand Prix prize. Individual event prize money will be \$10,000, \$5,000, \$3,500, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, \$2, \$1, \$0.50, \$0.25, \$0.10, \$0.05, \$0.02, \$0.01, \$0.005, \$0.002, \$0.001, \$0.0005, \$0.0002, \$0.0001, \$0.00005, \$0.00002, \$0.00001, \$0.000005, \$0.000002, \$0.000001, \$0.0000005, \$0.0000002, \$0.0000001, \$0.00000005, \$0.00000002, \$0.00000001, \$0.000000005, \$0.000000002, \$0.000000001, \$0.0000000005, \$0.0000000002, \$0.0000000001, \$0.00000000005, \$0.00000000002, \$0.00000000001, \$0.000000000005, \$0.000000000002, \$0.000000000001, \$0.0000000000005, \$0.0000000000002, \$0.0000000000001, \$0.00000000000005, \$0.00000000000002, \$0.00000000000001, \$0.000000000000005, \$0.000000000000002, \$0.000000000000001, \$0.0000000000000005, \$0.0000000000000002, \$0.0000000000000001, \$0.00000000000000005, \$0.00000000000000002, \$0.00000000000000001, \$0.000000000000000005, \$0.000000000000000002, \$0.000000000000000001, \$0.0000000000000000005, \$0.0000000000000000002, \$0.0000000000000000001, \$0.00000000000000000005, \$0.00000000000000000002, \$0.00000000000000000001, \$0.000000000000000000005, \$0.000000000000000000002, \$0.000000000000000000001, \$0.0000000000000000000005, \$0.0000000000000000000002, \$0.0000000000000000000001, \$0.00000000000000000000005, \$0.00000000000000000000002, \$0.00000000000000000000001, \$0.000000000000000000000005, \$0.000000000000000000000002, \$0.000000000000000000000001, \$0.0000000000000000000000005, \$0.0000000000000000000000002, \$0.0000000000000000000000001, \$0.00000000000000000000000005, \$0.00000000000000000000000002, \$0.00000000000000000000000001, \$0.000000000000000000000000005, \$0.000000000000000000000000002, \$0.000000000000000000000000001, \$0.0000000000000000000000000005, \$0.

June 21-July 14: World cross-country championships, California
 Aug 5-7: British League competition fourth round
 Aug 17-20: US Masters
 Aug 25-31: Czechoslovakian Open
 Sept 6-8: British League final

HOCKEY

Jan 11/12: Home Counties indoor championship, Cardiff
 Jan 11-13: European indoor cup, women, Crystal Palace
 Feb 22-24: European indoor under-21 championship, Vienna
 Mar 1: Indoor club championship final, Crystal Palace
 Mar 2: Wales v England, women
 Mar 8: England v Scotland, women
 Mar 16/17: County championship final, Wiltshire
 Apr 13: Ireland v England, women, Dublin
 Apr 21: Club championship final, Wiltshire
 May 12: West Germany v England, men and women, Mülheim (Führer)
 June 30-July 5: England tour of Australia
 Aug 10-24: Junior World Cup, Vancouver
 Aug 27-Sept 23: England tour of New Zealand and Australia, women
 Oct 19-20: International quadrilateral, Wiltshire
 The showpiece of the English hockey season to be held at the Wembley Stadium, Donnington Road, north London, and a prelude to the World Cup tournament at the same venue in October 1986. Inquiries for tickets to: The Hockey Association, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QB (01-387 9315)

ICE HOCKEY

Feb 22-Mar 1: World junior championships, group C, Antwerp
 Mar 14-21: World championships, group C, Chamonix
 Sept 21-31: World championships, group B, Freiburg
 Apr 17-May 3: World championships, group A, Prague
 May 4/5: Heineken British championship final, Wembley

ICE SKATING

Jan 12/13: Women's European speed championships, Groningen, The Netherlands
 Jan 26/27: Men's European speed championships, Eskilstuna, Sweden
 Feb 4-9: European figure and dance championships, Göteborg
 Feb 9/10: Women's world speed championships, Sarajevo
 Feb 16/17: Men's world speed championships, Hamar, Norway
 Feb 22/24: World sprint championships, Heerenveen, The Netherlands
 Feb 28-Mar 1: British speed championships, Richmond
 Mar 4-9: World figure and dance championships, Tokyo
 Sept 24-26: St Ivel international, Richmond
 Nov 15: British dance championship, Nottingham (prov)
 Dec 3/4: British figure championships, Richmond (prov)

JUDO

Feb 9/10: West German Open club and senior men
 Feb 24: International club championships, Paris
 Mar 15-17: Women's European championships, Sweden
 Mar 29-31: West German Open championships for men
 Apr 13: British Open championships for men, Crystal Palace
 May 8-12: Senior Men's European championships, Norway
 Jun 8/9: British Masters tournament, Aston Villa
 Jul 6/7: National championships for men and women, Yorks and Humber
 Sept 26-29: World championships for men, Seoul, South Korea
 Oct 5: British Open championships for women, Crystal Palace
 Nov 2/3: National under-16 individual championships for boys and girls, Crystal Palace
 Dec 7: National trials for senior men and women, Crystal Palace
 Dec 8: National trials for young men and young women, Crystal Palace

LACROSSE

Women
 Feb 2/3: All England territorial championship (1st weekend), Hampton
 Feb 16/17: All England territorial championship (2nd weekend), Berkhamstead
 Mar 2: Wales v England, Monmouth
 Mar 8: England v England reserves, Crystal Palace
 Mar 9: Scotland v Wales, Scotland
 Mar 16: England v Scotland, Motspur Park
 Men
 Feb 23: Senior flag final and minor flag final, Enfield
 Mar 3: Yorkshire v South, Sheffield
 Mar 10: Lancashire v South, Didbury
 Mar 17: Cheshire v Yorkshire, Stockport
 Mar 24: Lancashire v Yorkshire, Didbury
 Mar 24: South v Cheshire, London
 Apr 30: Lancashire v Cheshire, Rochdale

MODERN PENTATHLON

Apr 9-14: International meeting, Crystal Palace (prov)
 Aug 3-6: Women's world championships, Montreal
 July 26-28: National women's and junior championships, Wantage
 Aug 18-21: World championships, men, Melbourne
 Sept 14-18: Junior world championships, Yerevan, USSR
 Sept 20-22: National championships, men, Milton Keynes

MOTOR CYCLING

Road racing
 Mar 10: British championship round one, Cadwell Park
 Mar 23: South African Grand Prix, Kyalami
 Apr 5: British championships round two, Brands Hatch
 Apr 6: European championship round, Donington Park

May 5: Spanish Grand Prix, Jarama
 May 19: German Grand Prix, Hockenheim
 May 26: Italian Grand Prix, Mugello
 May 31: Formula One TT, Isle of Man
 June 2: Austrian Grand Prix, Salzburgring
 June 16: Yugoslavian Grand Prix, Rijeka
 June 23: British championship round three, Donington Park
 July 7: Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps
 July 21: French Grand Prix, Le Mans
 Aug 4: British Grand Prix, Silverstone
 Aug 10/11: Swedish Grand Prix, Anderstorp
 Aug 25/26: British championship final, Oulton Park
 Sept 1: San Marino Grand Prix, Imola

MOTOR RACING

Formula One world championship
 Apr 7: Brazilian Grand Prix, Rio de Janeiro
 Apr 21: Portuguese Grand Prix, Estoril
 May 5: San Marino Grand Prix, Imola
 June 2: Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps
 June 16: Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal
 June 23: Detroit Grand Prix, Le Castellet
 July 7: French Grand Prix, Le Castellet
 July 21: British Grand Prix, Silverstone
 The final of the season's 18 world championship races, staged on one of the world's fastest circuits. Watch Niki Lauda defend his third world title with McLaren and teammate Alain Prost as he faces his first Nigel Mansell (Williams-Honda) and Derek Warwick (Renault) will lead the British challenge.
 Aug 4: German Grand Prix, Hockenheim
 Aug 18: Austrian Grand Prix, Zeltweg
 Aug 25: Dutch Grand Prix, Zandvoort
 Sept 8: Italian Grand Prix, Monza
 Sept 21: New York Grand Prix, Oct 13: Grand Prix of Europe, Rome
 Oct 26: South African Grand Prix, Kyalami
 Nov 3: Australian Grand Prix, Adelaide
 June 16/17: Le Mans 24 Hours

MOTOR RALLYING

World Rally championship
 Feb 15-17: Portuguese rally
 Mar 5-10: Safari rally, East Africa
 May 4-6: French rally
 June 1-7: Acropolis rally, Greece
 June 27-July 3: New Zealand rally
 July 27-Aug 3: Argentine rally
 Aug 21-25: 1000 Lakes rally, Finland
 Sept 30-Oct 5: San Remo rally, Italy
 Oct 29-Nov 3: Ivory Coast rally
 Nov 23-26: Lombard RAC rally, Great Britain

NETBALL

Feb 16: England v Republic of Ireland under 21/under 18, Pools
 Mar 2/3: United Kingdom and Ireland tournament, Scotland
 Mar 30: Northern Ireland v England, under-21/under-18, Northern Ireland
 Ireland
 June 1: International tournament
 July 11-Aug 2: World games, Crystal Palace
 Nov 30: International netball trophy, Wembley

ORIENTEERING

Mar 3: British championships, Wyre Forest, West Midlands
 Mar 17: National event, Plyn Forest, Devon
 Apr 21: National event, Stourhead
 May 6: Inter-regional championships, Ambergate, Derby
 May 18: National event, West Cumbria
 May 26: National event, Trossachs
 July 7: National event, Kinsey Moor
 Oct 13: National event, Pembury Park, South Wales
 Oct 20: National event, Pannanich, Scotland

POLO

May 28-31: Preliminary rounds, Dollar Cup, Cowdray Park
 June 2: Final, Dollar Cup, Cowdray Park
 June 2-6: 1st round and quarter-finals, Queen's Cup, Smith's Lawn, Windsor
 June 7: Semi-finals, Queen's Cup
 June 11-14: Preliminary rounds, Warwickshire Cup, Warwickshire Cup
 June 25-27: Quarter-finals, Warwickshire Cup
 June 28: Semi-finals, Warwickshire Cup
 June 30: Final, Warwickshire Cup
 July 2-18: League matches British Open, Cowdray Park
 July 19: Semi-finals, British Open
 July 21: Final, British Open
 July 28: Carver International Day, Smith's Lawn
 July 28-Aug 1: Quarter-finals, Cowdray Park Challenge Cup, Cowdray Park
 Aug 2: Semi-finals, Cowdray Park Challenge Cup
 Aug 4: Final, Cowdray Park Challenge Cup
 Aug 12-18: National 15-goal championship, Clonacaster
 Aug 16-18: National Pony Club championship, Cowdray Park
 Sept 8-13: Preliminary rounds, European championship, Smith's Lawn
 Sept 15: Final, European championship

POWERBOATING

Inland circuit racing
 World Grand Prix series for two-litre engine boats
 Jan 18-20: Nassau
 Feb 16/17: Miami
 Mar 30/31: Johannesburg
 May 18/19: Hannover
 June 8/9: Bristol
 June 29/30: Scandinavia, Holland or Austria
 July 27/28: Lugano
 Aug 24-26: Royal Victoria Dock, London
 Sept 14/15: Scandinavia, Holland or Austria
 Oct 5/6: Paris
 British championship series for two-litre engine boats
 May 5: Oulton Broad, Norfolk
 May 11/12: Carr Mill, Lancashire
 May 1/2: Stewarts, Bedfordshire
 July 13: Windermere
 Aug 4: Chasewater, Birmingham

Aug 10/11: Fairford, Gloucestershire
 Sept 22: Holms Pierpoint, Nottingham
 Offshore
 World championship events:
 June 4-10: World 110, Guernsey
 Aug 23: World Class 1 and 2, Cowes
 Aug 31: Torbay International
 Sept 15-21: Pooles Bay International
 European championship event:
 Aug 18: European 110, The Needles
 United Kingdom championship events:
 May 4: Spithead Trophy, Portsmouth
 May 25: Pooles Offshore Trophy, Cornwall
 Sept 7: London/Catsea/London, Tower Bridge
 July 28: Brighton Marina Trophy, Sussex
 Aug 31: Torbay International, Brixham
 Sept 21: Pooles Bay Trophy, Dorset

RACING

Jan 12: Embassy Premier Chase Final, Ascot
 Feb 8: Schweppes Gold Trophy Hurdle, Newbury
 May 18: Irish Champion Hurdle, Leopardstown
 Mar 12: Imperial Cup Hurdle, Leopardstown
 Mar 13: Sun Alliance Steeple Chase, and Queen Mother Stakes, Cheltenham
 Mar 14: Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase, and Triumph Hurdle, Cheltenham
 Mar 23: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster
 May 30: Grand National, Liverpool
 Corbiere and Hella Dandy, the last two Grand National winners, are both enjoying extended mid-season breaks before chasing England glory once again in three weeks' time. Hella Dandy is putting his horse up on the Pannanich farm of his trainer, Gordon Richards, while Jenny Pitman is hoping to restore Corbiere's euphoria by hunting him with the Vine and Crown. Tony Balding, who won the 1969 National with Highland Wedding, has another leading contender in Lucky Vase, fourth to Hella Dandy nine months ago.
 Apr 17: European Handicap, Newmarket
 Apr 18: Irish Grand National, Fairhouse
 Apr 20: Scottish National, Ayr
 Apr 27: Whitbread Gold Cup, Sandown Park
 May 24: French 2,000 Guineas, Longchamp
 May 21: 1,000 Guineas Stakes, Newmarket
 May 4: Kentucky Derby/Churchill Downs
 May 4: 2,000 Guineas Stakes, Newmarket
 May 5: French 1,000 Guineas, Longchamp
 May 7: Chester Vase, Chester
 May 15: Dante Stakes, York
 May 18: Irish 2,000 Guineas, The Curragh
 May 28: Irish 1,000 Guineas, The Curragh
 June 3: Derby Stakes, Epsom
 June 8: Lester Piggett, with nine Derby victories to his credit, will have a free hand to choose his Epsom mount now that he has parted company with Henry Cecil. Kate Dancer and Rachel are likely to rank high on Piggett's short list as he thumbs the form book this winter. Cecil himself, with the 1984 champion, Steve Causton, now his stable jockey, has high hopes that the 1985 Derby will be his first Derby success. El Gran Senor was inches away from giving Vincent O'Brien his seventh Derby last June and the Ballydoyle maestro again has a host of possibilities including Law Society, Gold Crest and Father Matthew. O'Brien's son, David, who saddled Secretariat to beat El Gran Senor seven months ago, now has the Derby in mind for his promising filly, Aydar's Best.
 June 6: Coronation Cup, Epsom
 June 8: Oaks Stakes, Epsom
 June 8: French Derby, Chantilly
 June 18: French Oaks, Chantilly
 June 18: Coronation Stakes, Jersey Stakes and Queen's Vase Stakes, Ascot
 June 20: Gold Cup, King Edward VII Stakes and Cork and Orrery Stakes, Ascot
 June 25: Minors' Northumberland Plate, Newcastle
 June 28: Irish Derby, The Curragh
 July 8: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown
 July 10: July Stakes, Newmarket
 July 11: July Cup, Newmarket
 July 13: Magnet Cup, York
 July 13: Irish Oaks, The Curragh
 July 27: King George VI and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot
 July 30: Stewards Cup, Goodwood
 Aug 1: Goodwood Cup, Goodwood
 Aug 2: Exel Handicap, Goodwood
 Aug 3: Nassau Stakes, Goodwood
 Aug 20: Benson & Hedges Gold Cup, and Yorkshire Oaks, York
 Aug 21: Ebor Handicap and Lowther Stakes, York
 Aug 22: Great Voltigeur Stakes, Glimmer Stakes, and William Hill Sprint championship, York
 Aug 24: Waterford Crystal Mile, Goodwood
 Aug 31: Arlington Million, Chicago

Prospects glow for the Ashes

The feature of the 1985 cricket season will be the thirtieth visit of the Australians, whose itinerary includes six Test matches, sponsored by Cornhill Insurance, and three one-day internationals for the Texaco Trophy.

An Australian tour retains a special place in the English cricket calendar, as it has done ever since the first side in 1878 defeated MCC in a single day at Lord's and in a few hours taught the mother country that cricket talent was not her sole preserve.

The 1985 Australian team have a difficult act to follow, for their immediate predecessors in 1984, if not remembered for their success, took part in a Test series which gripped the nation's attention perhaps more than any other in the long history of the game.

England, already one match down and forced to follow on 227 runs behind in the third Test at Headingley, were within three wickets of an innings defeat and odds of 500-1 were on offer to those seeking to regain some respect after severe drubbings by West Indies. For the first time in three years England will be able to select from full strength, with the likes of Gooch, Embury, Willey and Underwood eligible again after their ban for playing in South Africa.

Australian tour dates
 May 1-6: Levens, Duchess of Norfolk's XI, Arundel
 May 11-15: Somerset, Taunton
 May 11-15: Worcestershire, Worcester
 May 14: Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge
 May 16: Surrey, The Oval
 May 18-21: Sussex, Hove
 May 22-24: MCC, Lord's
 May 25-28: Derbyshire, Derby
 May 30: England, first one-day international, Old Trafford
 June 1: England, second one-day



Taking strike: W. G. Grace faces Australia at the Oval in 1882

series by three matches to one. Australia regained the Ashes two winters ago in a home series which also contained one of the most exciting Tests ever played, England winning by a mere three runs, and they held an overall lead in the matches between the countries of 95 wins to 83, with 73 draws.

This time both sides will be under different captains, Willie Wright and Greg Chappell having retired, and both will be seeking to regain some respect after severe drubbings by West Indies. For the first time in three years England will be able to select from full strength, with the likes of Gooch, Embury, Willey and Underwood eligible again after their ban for playing in South Africa.

Australian tour dates
 May 1-6: Levens, Duchess of Norfolk's XI, Arundel
 May 11-15: Somerset, Taunton
 May 11-15: Worcestershire, Worcester
 May 14: Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge
 May 16: Surrey, The Oval
 May 18-21: Sussex, Hove
 May 22-24: MCC, Lord's
 May 25-28: Derbyshire, Derby
 May 30: England, first one-day international, Old Trafford
 June 1: England, second one-day

international, Edgbaston
 June 3: England, third one-day international, Lord's
 June 5-7: Yorkshire, Headingley (or Warwickshire or Lancashire depending on Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals)
 June 8-11: Leicestershire, Leicester
 June 13-18: England, first Test, Headingley
 June 20: Combined Universities, Cambridge
 June 22: Hampshire, Southampton
 June 27-July 2: England, second Test, Lord's
 July 5-8: Essex, Chelmsford
 July 11-15: England, third Test, Trent Bridge
 July 18: Minor Counties, Jermolov
 July 20-22: Glamorgan, Neath (or Warwickshire if Glamorgan in Benson and Hedges Cup final)
 July 24-26: Gloucestershire, Bristol
 July 27-30: Northamptonshire, Northampton
 Aug 1-6: England, fourth Test, Old Trafford
 Aug 8: Ireland, Downpatrick
 Aug 10-13: Middlesex, Lord's
 Aug 15-21: Kent, fifth Test, Edgbaston
 Aug 22-27: Kent, Canterbury
 Aug 28-Sept 3: England, sixth Test, The Oval

Applications for tickets for the three one-day internationals and six Test matches should be made to the club secretaries at the grounds concerned.
 May 11: Premiership final

ROWING

Mar 19: Schools Head of the River race, Tideway, London
 Mar 30: Head of the River, Tideway, London
 July 12-14: Lucerne International Regatta, Luzern, Switzerland
 July 18: Doggett's Coat and Badge, London Bridge to Chelsea (prov)
 July 27: Home Countries' International, Nottingham
 Aug 7-11: Junior championships, Wendenburg, East Germany
 Aug 28-Sept 1: World championships, Hazewinkel, Belgium

RUGBY UNION

Jan 5: England v Romania, Twickenham
 Jan 19: Ireland v England, Dublin
 France v Wales, Paris; Scotland v France B, Aberdeen
 Feb 2: Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh; England v France, Paris
 Apr 5-9: European championships, Spain
 Apr 15-23: British Open championships, East Grinstead and Wembley
 May 4-8: British women's doubles Open, Binghamham
 June 2-15: Champion of champions, nationwide
 Aug 12-Sept 8: Women's world championships, Belfast
 Oct 12-14: European champion of champions, Brussels
 Oct 28-30: World masters, Warrington, Lancashire
 Nov 1-4: Spanish Open
 Nov 8-14: German Open Munich; Inter-city British championships
 Nov 15-19: British under-23 championships, Bristol
 Nov 19-25: World Open (team men), Egypt
 Nov 27-Dec 7: World Open (individual men), Egypt

RUGBY LEAGUE

Jan 5: John Player Special Trophy, second round
 Jan 26: John Player Special Trophy, final
 Feb 9/10: Challenge Cup first round
 Feb 23/24: Challenge Cup second round
 Mar 2: Great Britain v France Colts
 Mar 3: Great Britain v France
 Mar 9/10: Challenge Cup third round
 Mar 17: France v Great Britain
 Mar 22: Challenge Cup first semi-final
 Apr 8: Challenge Cup second semi-final
 Apr 28: Stajon Lager Premiership first round
 May 5: Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, Wembley
 The Rugby League Challenge Cup final is a much loved event. Many of the 80,000 spectators who will gather to watch it as a special and family outing as much as an sporting contest. The two towns whose teams battle it out at Wembley are empty on the Saturday of the match, with the Empire Stadium, and the remaining half watching on

SHOOTING

Feb 27-Mar 4: European air weapons championships, Bulgaria
 Apr 29-30: World air weapons championships, Mexico
 July 18: Public Schools rifle championship, Bales, Surrey
 July 19-27: 125th National Rifle Association meeting, Bales, Surrey
 July 27: The Queen's Prize, Bales
 July 28: Palma Match (35 v Canada v Australia v USA), Bales, Surrey
 Aug 10-17: National smallbore rifle championships, Bales, Surrey
 Aug 23-28: National pistol championships, Bales, Surrey
 Sept 3-12: European smallbore championships, Opatowitz, Yugoslavia
 Oct 11-13: British air weapons championships, Cardiff

SKIING

Jan 8-18: British Alpine championships, Sals, St Moritz, Switzerland
 Jan 12/13: Hahnenkamm, Kitzbühel, Austria
 Jan 17-27: World Nordic championships, Seefeld, Austria
 Jan 18-26: Lugerhorn, Wengen, Switzerland
 Jan 19-21: Women's World Cup, Chamonix, France
 Jan 28/29: Women's World Cup, Arosa, Switzerland
 Jan 3-8: British Nordic championships, Zweisil, West Germany
 Jan 31-Feb 10: World Alpine championships, Bormio, Italy
 Mar 16/17: Kandahar-Martini, Carville, Italy
 Mar 21/22: Alpine World Cup finals, Heavenly Valley, California
 Apr 15-18: British free-style championships, Cairngorm

SPEEDWAY

Apr 20: England v Denmark, Coventry
 Apr 26: England v Denmark, Oxford
 May 4: England v Denmark, Manchester
 May 12: Team world championship (England, Australia, New Zealand, Finland), Bradford
 June 1: Pairs world championship semi-final, Bradford
 June 30: British Open, Wolverhampton
 July 17: Individual world championship overseas final, Bradford
 July 30: World games, Wembley
 Aug 31: Individual world championship world final, Bradford
 Sept 2: England v USA International, Poole, Ipswich and Wolverhampton

SQUASH RACKETS

Jan 4-6: Home Internationals, Belfast
 Jan 7-9: British under-19 Open, London
 Jan 11-14: British doubles, Swindon, Wiltshire
 Jan 19-25: British under-23 Open, Bristol
 Feb 14-17: Swedish Open, Stockholm
 Feb 18-21: Finnish Open, Helsinki
 Feb 21-23: Irish Open, Dublin
 Mar 11-17: French Open, Paris
 Apr 5-9: European championships, Spain
 Apr 15-23: British Open championships, East Grinstead and Wembley
 May 4-8: British women's doubles Open, Binghamham
 June 2-15: Champion of champions, nationwide
 Aug 12-Sept 8: Women's world championships, Belfast
 Oct 12-14: European champion of champions, Brussels
 Oct 28-30: World masters, Warrington, Lancashire
 Nov 1-4: Spanish Open
 Nov 8-14: German Open Munich; Inter-city British championships
 Nov 15-19: British under-23 championships, Bristol
 Nov 19-25: World Open (team men), Egypt
 Nov 27-Dec 7: World Open (individual men), Egypt

SWIMMING

Jan 18-20: Golden Cup, Strasbourg, France
 Jan 25-27: Speedo meeting, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
 Feb 1-3: Diana meeting, Paris
 Feb 8-10: Arena meeting, Bonn
 Apr 4-8: Water polo international, Crystal Palace
 Apr 11-14: European diving cup, Zurich
 Apr 14/15: GB v Sweden, Blackpool
 Apr 22-24: World diving cup, Shanghai
 June 28-30: GB v Canada, Edinburgh
 Aug 3-11: European championships, Sofia, Bulgaria
 Aug 24-30: World student games, Kobe, Japan
 Dec 14/15: European swimming cup, Den Bosch, The Netherlands

TABLE TENNIS

Jan 12: Charles Church championships, Wembley
 Jan 12/13: Cleveland 3-Star
 Jan 13-15: World Open, Cardiff
 Jan 23: England v Yugoslavia, European League (away)
 Feb 1-3: European Top Twelve, Barcelona
 Feb 9/10: Essex 3-Star
 Feb 23: England v Germany, European League, Portsmouth
 Mar 2/3: South of England 3-Star
 Mar 6: England v Holland, European League (away)
 Mar 7-8: English closed championships
 Mar 17-28: Commonwealth championships, Isle of Man
 Mar 28-Apr 7: World championships, Gothenburg, Sweden
 May 11/12: English Junior Open

TENNIS

Jan 1-8: Doubles tournament, Albert Hall
 Jan 2-8: Under-22 tournament, Birmingham
 Jan 8-13: Masters tournament, New York
 Jan 14-20: King's Cup tournament, Essex
 Feb 5-17: ATP/WTB tournament, Delray Beach, Florida
 Mar 19-24: Women's circuit championships, New York
 Apr 9-14: WCT tournament, Dallas

WRESTLING

Mar 3: Women's Powerlifting championships, Fleetwood
 Mar 29 and 31: EEC championships, Kassel
 May 5-12: European Senior Powerlifting championships, The Netherlands
 May 12: Senior Powerlifting championships, Milton Keynes
 May 19-25: Senior European Powerlifting championships, Katowice, Poland
 May 27-31: Women's World Powerlifting championships, Australia
 June 8/9: Senior Powerlifting championships, Birmingham
 July 6: English Native Powerlifting championships, Huddersfield
 July 21: Masters Powerlifting championships, Milton Keynes
 Aug 23-31: Senior World Powerlifting championships, Sordafjalle, Sweden
 Aug (dates to be announced): World Masters Powerlifting championships
 Sept 18: World Cup, Monte Carlo
 Nov 7-10: World Senior Powerlifting championships, Helsinki
 Dec 7: Women's European Powerlifting championships, The Netherlands

WATER SKIING

June 8/9: KP Masters, Princes
 June 22/23: English Native Powerlifting championships, Lound
 July 13/14: British National Powerlifting championships, Thorpe Park
 July 27-28: World Games, Thorpe Park
 Aug 3-14: European Cup Final, Princes
 Aug 10/11: British National Junior and Dauphin championships, Holme Pierpoint
 Aug 24/25: British National Senior and Veteran championships, Tillingham
 Sept 2-12: British All Regions tournament, Hazewinkel
 Sept 28/29: British Ski League final, venue to be announced

WEIGHTLIFTING

Mar 3: Women's Powerlifting championships, Fleetwood
 Mar 29 and 31: EEC championships, Kassel
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Compiled by Peter Waymark

New Year television and radio

Critical guide to the holiday broadcasting

TODAY

TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER (1971)
Channel 4, 12.30-2.10pm
Sir Frederick Ashton, Wayne Sleep and Lesley Collier are some of the famous names behind the masks in a charming balletic interpretation of five of Beatrix Potter's animal stories.

THE JOLSON STORY (1946)
Channel 4, 2.10-4.35pm
Bowdlerized, likeable biography of the great Al Jolson, who is played (and mimed) by Larry Parks. But the Jolson voice is authentic and so are the songs, from "There's A Rainbow Around My Shoulder" to "April Showers" and "My Mammy". The 1949 sequel, *Jolson Sings Again*, is on Channel 4 tomorrow (2-3.45pm).

THE TOWERING INFERNO (1974)
BBC1, 5.55-8.35pm
The archetypal disaster movie - flames engulf the world's tallest building and trap a raft of stars including Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and William Holden. The special effects men have a ball.

MR SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON (1939)
Channel 4, 10pm-12.25am
Folksy Frank Capra comedy with James Stewart as the Senator from the sticks exposing graft and corruption in high places. A persuasive testament to the American ideal of life, liberty and the triumph of the common man.

HIGH NOON (1952)
BBC1, midnight-1.25am
Lone marshal Gary Cooper preparing to do what a man's gotta do as the outlaws ride in on the noon train. Convicted but gripping Western, tautly directed by Fred Zinneman: there were Oscars for Cooper, composer Dmitri Tiomkin and the title song "Do Not Forsake Me, Oh My Darlin'".



Woman's role: Meryl Streep in *Kramer vs Kramer* and *The Deer Hunter* (top), TV premieres

TOMORROW

CITY LIGHTS (1931)
BBC2, 1.50-3.15pm
Chaplin's little tramp befriends a blind flower seller and helps her to regain her sight. A good candidate for the most successful of Chaplin's silent comedies, with the sentimentality and the slapstick coming in just the right measure.

STAR WARS (1977)
ITV, 2.45-5pm
Artful mixture of old-fashioned fairy tale and new-fangled technology, dazzlingly choreographed by director George Lucas. But inevitably less effective on the small screen.

THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939)
BBC2, 5.50-8.50pm
Follow Judy Garland and chums down the Yellow Brick Road for one of the most enchanting musicals ever. Rich Technicolor, a host of outside characters, including Bert Lahr's Cowardly Lion and Margaret Hamilton's Wicked Witch, and among the songs the enduringly poignant "Over the Rainbow".

KRAMER VS KRAMER (1979)
BBC1, 8.35-10.20pm
Juicy performances from Meryl

Streep and Dustin Hoffman as estranged parents battling over the custody of their son in a well-observed, if slightly cute, study of domestic disharmony which picked up five Oscars.

THE DRIVER (1978)
BBC2, 10.35pm-12.10am
Detective Bruce Dern on the trail of getaway driver Ryan O'Neal in Walter Hill's cat-and-mouse chase thriller in which character comes second to action and the real stars are the stunt men.

Replaces *Looking for Mr Goodbar*.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

HEAVEN'S ABOVE! (1963)/ITV ALL RIGHT JACK (1959)
BBC1, 1.40-3.30pm/3.35-5.15pm
Double bill of Boulting Brothers' comedies starring Peter Sellers. In the first he is a well-meaning Midlands vicar who outrages a snooty parish; in the second he gives one of his finest screen performances as the Communist shop steward, Fred Kite.

THE CIRCUS (1928)
BBC2, 6.15-8.25pm
Underestimated Chaplin comedy, made while his private life was in a turmoil but still containing many reminders of his genius. It is the usual mix of gags and pathos as Charlie, on the run from the police, is taken on by a circus and falls for the beautiful bareback rider.

DAY FOR NIGHT (1973)
BBC2, 9-10.50pm
François Truffaut's fascination with the mechanics of cinema was never more evident than in this funny and affectionate look at a harassed director (played by Truffaut himself) trying to get his production off the ground. Watch out for Graham Greene in a tiny cameo.

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (1952)
BBC1, 12.10-1.50am
Gene Kelly's sparkling way through the film number is only one of many delights in this giant among American musicals. There's a quicksilver Donald O'Connor, fetching Debbie Reynolds and high kicking Cyd Charisse, all integrated

into a wry look at Hollywood itself as it makes the painful transition from silent to talkies.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

STATE FAIR (1945)
Channel 4, 2.30-4.20pm
Rousing tribute to small town America which brought Rodgers and Hammerstein to the cinema after their stage success with *Oklahoma!* The songs carry it mainly but there is an engaging performance from roly-poly Charles Winninger as the owner of a prize pig.

THE GUNS OF NAVARONE (1961)
BBC1, 6.10-8.40pm
Best to enjoy the excitement and forget the moralizing in this rousing Alais MacLean adventure about wartime commandos Gregory Peck, David Niven and Anthony Quinn trying to silence two huge German guns.

MODERN TIMES (1936)
BBC2, 8.10-7.35pm
Chaplin's satire on the inhumanity of the factory assembly-line still

strikes chords and there is trenchant if sometimes naive social criticism behind the fooling. Paulette Goddard is the gamine who comforts Charlie in his darkest moments and for the first time on screen Chaplin gives his little tramp a voice.

DR NO (1962)
ITV, 6.30-8.30pm
The first James Bond adventure to be filmed - why did it take them so long? Sean Connery's stylish, tongue-in-cheek playing emphasises how much he was missed in later productions.

THE DEER HUNTER (1978)
BBC2, 9.10pm-12.10am
Michael Cimino's epic treatment of the effect of the Vietnam war on three Pennsylvania steelworkers, which resists the temptation to score political points and concentrates on the human dimension. Compulsive playing from Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken and John Cazale, with Meryl Streep as the girl they leave behind.

DUCK SOUP (1933)
BBC1, 12.40-1.25am
The Marx Brothers' their zany best, uncluttered by musical interludes and romantic sub-plots. It's the one in which Groucho plays Ruffus T. Firefly, ruler of Freedonia and casting a lecherous eye on Margaret Dumont.

PARADE 4.30-5.45pm
The last film of Jacques Tati, made for television, in which he plays the ringmaster of a circus and recreates his classic mimes.

ON THE WATERFRONT (1954)
BBC1, 10.20-12.05am
Budd Schulberg's story of union racketeering in the New York docks provided the perfect vehicle for director Elia Kazan and a present cast of "fresh" actors, headed by Marlon Brando, Lee J. Cobb and Rod Taylor.

GALLIPOLI (1981)
ITV, 10.30pm-12.35am
Mel Gibson leads Australian director Peter Weir's perceptive study of comradeship in battle, set against the Dardanelles campaign of the First World War.

THURSDAY

SWEET CHARITY (1969)
BBC2, 9-11.20pm
Bob Fosse musical about the loves of a New York taxi driver (Shirley Maizel) in which style and energy help to compensate for a fragmented structure. From a Neil Simon play, inspired by the Fellini film *Le Notte di Cabiria*.

FRIDAY

SUPERMAN 11 ITV, 7-9.15pm
Christopher Reeve back as the red-caped hero, against the mad General Zod. One of a few examples in the cinema of a sequel upstaging the original, mainly thanks to the lively direction of Richard Lester.

"First British television showing."

Television choice

According to the author, Keith Waterhouse, consists of lots of people doing very little. Jenny Agutter, Dinsdale Landen and Roy Kinnear head the cast and the script adviser is a famous name from the Ealing film comedies, T. E. B. Clarke.

Wynne and Penkowsky, by Andrew Carr recalls a remarkable spy story. David Calder plays Greville Wynne, who used his engineering export business as a cover to bring the Russian Colonel Oleg Penkovsky and his secrets to the West. Wynne, now growing roses in Majorca, advised on the programme, which has Christopher Rozycki as Penkovsky. Part one is on Wednesday, BBC1, 9.25-10.20pm; it continues on Thursday and Friday.

Fresh from a ratings triumph in the United States is Channel 4's mini-series, *A Woman of Substance*, from Barbara Taylor-Bradford's best seller about

a humble Yorkshire kitchen maid who becomes one of the richest women in the world. The character is played in her younger days by Jenny Seagrove and in her maturity by Deborah Kerr. Arguably more distinguished is *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, from the Royal Shakespeare Company's magnificent stage production, which gets a welcome repeat on Channel 4 today (6.05-10pm) and tomorrow (6-10.45pm).

Eric Morecambe has gone but the memories linger on. They will be revived by *Morecambe and Wise Classics*, clips from their BBC shows (BBC1, New Year's Eve, 8-9pm) introduced by Ernie Wise, and by their last film, *Night Train to Murder* (ITV, Thursday, 8.30-10pm).

Twenty five years ago the young Karel Reisz made a documentary about a South London youth club called *Wh. Are the Lambeth Boys*, which helped to further the crusade for the more sympathetic treatment of working class life in the British cinema. In a three-part series, starting on Wednesday (8-9pm), BBC2 is showing the film and looking at what became of the *Teddy Boys*.

Amid the New Year festivities are reminders of more sombre themes: *Refugees of Faith* (Channel 4, tomorrow, 1.30-3pm) looks at the plight of the three million Afghans, the highest concentration of refugees in the world, living in exile in Pakistan; and *Global Report* (BBC2, New Year's Eve, 7.25-9pm) presents stories of man's basic needs for food, health, education and work, filmed in India, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Yorkshire.

Radio Choice

Master's India, the most ambitious radio drama presentation of 1984, enters its final stretch on Sunday (Radio 4, 9-10pm) with the start of a five-part adaptation of *Rajmurti*. John Masters' quince about the Savage family and Imperial India has reached 1946, the eve of Independence, and Victoria Jones (Shireen Shah) finds herself torn between the British and Indian cultures.

On Wednesday there is the first radio production of *Plum Carré* (Radio 3, 7-9.20pm), a late play by Tennessee Williams based on his experiences as a young writer in the French quarter of New Orleans in the 1930s. Mark Rolston plays the writer, who combines an affection for his fellow boarding house lodgers with a determination to escape his squalid environment; and Sheila Gish repeats her stage role of Jane.

Another tortured American writer, Dashiell Hammett, expressed his vision of his native land through crime novels, of which the most famous - thanks mainly to the John Huston film - is *The Maltese Falcon*. In a Saturday Night Theatre production (Radio 4, today, 8-10pm), Tom Wilkinson plays the private eye, Sam Spade, and Jane Lapotina is the vengeful Brigid O'Shaughnessy.

The novel that was favourite for the Booker Prize but failed to win is the new *Book at Bedtime*, starting on Monday (Radio 4, 10.15-10.30pm). J. G. Ballard's *Empire of the Sun* is a partly autobiographical view, through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy, of a Japanese internment camp in 1942. The 15-part adaptation is read by Kenneth Haigh.

Finally, Joe Loss and his Big Band celebrate 50 years of broadcasting with a concert of their hit numbers from the 1930s to the present day (Radio 2, today, 7.30-8.30pm).

THEATRE

Openings

IN NOMINE PATRIS: The Yorkshire Television National Student Theatre Company with a production which won several awards at the Edinburgh Festival 1984. Paula Macge's piece deals with a young woman's decision to become a nun, and the reactions of her parents, contemporaries and boyfriend, against the background of present-day religious intolerance in Glasgow.

ALICE BANANES!: Harvey and the Waltheavers, a musical cabaret group, bring their latest show, which was a success at the Edinburgh Festival, to London. Heavy reliance on tunes from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Directed by Rod Naddell, with special guests. Bloomsbury Theatre, 300 Strand, London WC1 (387 9629). Opens Mon at 8pm. No perf Jan 16.

GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION: Sonia Fraser directs her own adaptation of a script by the late Win Wells, in which Miriam Margulies and Natasha Morgan portray Gertrude Stein and Alicia B.

Toklas, in a show said to "celebrate the companionship and love" shared by the famous pair. It won a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival. Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 (743 3388). Preview Wed at 8pm; opens Thurs at 7pm. Until Jan 26, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

WINTER: David Mowat's play examines the relationship between a botanist, his wife and daughter and looks at "some of the implications of the manner of 'scientific' thinking". Joanna Hole, Ann Queensberry, Ben Robertson, directed by Eric Standridge. Not suitable for children. Old Red Lion, St John Street, Angel, London EC1 (837 7816). Preview today and tomorrow at 8pm; opens Tues at 8pm. Until Jan 19, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Peter Cox directs his adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel, in a joint production by the Churchill Theatre Bromley and Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Cast includes Ian McEwan as Pip, Roy Dotrice as Magwitch, Sheila Burrell as Miss Havisham. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (928 7616). Preview today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm; opens Jan 2 at 7pm. Until Feb 2, Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

FILMS

Selected

THE SWING (PG)
Everyman, Hampstead (435 1525)
Percy Adlon, the fastidious German director of *Caligula*, broadens his scope with this leisurely, episodic and bewitching portrait of a Munich family at the end of the century, based on Annette Kolb's autobiographical novel. Grandly filmed with engaging performances and succulent photography.

GHOSTBUSTERS (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square (437 8111)
No point looking for finesse in this supernatural spoof from Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and directed Ivan Reitman; though for a film costing some \$30m, one expects far better special effects.

GREMLINS (15)
Warner West End (439 0781)
Executive producer Steven Spielberg returns to E.T. territory with the artful story of small, furry, but not entirely lovable creatures running amok in a cosy little town. Directed by Joe Dante (*The Howling*) with a glowing relish for nightmare horror.

DUNE (PG)
Empire, Leicester Square (437 1234)
David Lynch's expensive, impersonal vision of Frank Herbert's science fiction classic about war and intrigue on a desert planet; top-heavy with plots, but visually immaculate. With Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, and Sting.

THE KILLING FIELDS (15)
Warner West End (439 0781)
Britain's lavish entry into the

blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Putnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffé. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war helped by a local man (Hanoi Ngan); fairly impressive in spots.

A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15)
Odeon Haymarket (351 2738)
Alan Bennett's first cinema script offers the riotous, rude post-war tale of a Yorkshire chipologist, a wife with social pretensions, and a pig with no social sense at all. Directed by Malcolm Mowbray, with a glorious cast: Michael Palin, Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliott.

FULL MOON IN PARIS (15)
Chelsea Cinema (351 3742)
Camden Plaza (485 2433)
Eric Rohmer's spare, elegant study of a girl trying to keep her man and her independence.



War worm: Dr. Hating Nod in *The Killing Fields*

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden, London WC2 (240 1066)

The traditional New Year *Fledermaus* still holds the stage at Covent Garden with performances this week on Thurs, and, of course, New Year's Eve itself (both 7.00). There will doubtless be the usual party frolics on the great night. Julius Rudel conducts, and the strong young cast includes Elizabeth Gale as Adele, Barbara Daniels as Rosalinde, Dennis O'Neill as Alfred, and Thomas Allen as Von Eisenstein.

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS
ROYAL BALLET
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, matinees Sat at 2.30pm.

The first ballet premiere of the new year is Jennifer Jackson's *Mediant*, to music by an American composer, Stephen Montague. Featuring Martin Tait and Leanne Benjamin in a cast of 12, it is to be given Thurs-Sat in a bill with Ashton's *Les Patineurs* and a revival of Cranko's *The Lady and the Fool*. The programme until Wed is *La Fille mal gardée*, in which Sandra Madgwick dances Lise this afternoon and (replacing Jennifer

Jackson) Mon, Sherilyn Kennedy tonight, Nicola Katrak, Tues and Marion Tait, Wed.

DANCIN' 85
Manchester, Royal Northern College of Music (061-273 4504). Opens Wed, until Jan 16.
Northern Ballet Theatre open the new year with a series of special events intended to give local audiences new insight into their work, including a programme of specially made works by aspiring choreographers, dance films, an open day and a "performance auction". Ring for details and times.

ROCK & JAZZ

NIK KERSHAW
Tonight to Mon, Hammersmith, Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W8 (748 4081).
Last nights of a long tour to celebrate a successful year for this unexceptionable purveyor of shopping-centre pop.

PETER GREENWELL
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Pizza on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (235 5550).
Following the defection of Steve Ross to the Ritz, Greenwell takes over the role of Noel Coward revivalist at the Hyde Park Corner pizza basement. On New Year's Eve he will be joined by the superb singer Adelaide Hall, whose performance of Ellingtonia is what might be described as first-hand.

GEORGE MELLY
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (439 0747).
Barely even second-hand, Melly's Bessie Smith impersonation is nevertheless greatly cherished.

ROCK WEEK
From tonight, ICA Theatre, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647).
Sponsored by Harp Lager, these series mark the death of rock 'n' roll. But I've said that before, and no one noticed. So avant-rockers will no doubt want to hear the Jesus and Mary Chain (tonight), Microdisney (tomorrow), the Pogues and the Sid Presley Experience (Mon), C-Cat Trance (Wed), King (Thurs) and all the rest.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
Mon/Tues, Moat House, Banbury (228 59361); Wed/Thurs, Half Moon, 93 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (786 2367); Fri, Queen's Hall, Hoxham (0434 505767).

Dave Swarbrick and Simon Alcorn are among the illustrious alumni participating in the latest of a now frequent series of revivals of the seminal folk-rock band.

KING/WHITTE/SMITH
Mon, But's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 (876 5241).
This New Year's Eve bebop special features Peter King, the most assured of this country's Charlie Parker disciples, on alto saxophone, the experienced tenor saxophonist Tommy Whittle, and the versatile guitarist Terry Smith.

DANNY ADLER
Mon, Bessie Clee, 25 Coronet Street, London N1 (723 2478).
Those who love rhythm 'n' blues, however, will head for the sound of Danny Adler's Delux Blues Band, a loose-jointed quartet featuring the leader's soulful guitar.



Good time boy: George Melly, at Ronnie Scott's Club

GALLERIES

Openings

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION: Chosen by the critic John Spurling; Bruce Bernard, former picture editor of *The Sunday Times*, and artist Rose Garrard, the 42 works in this exhibition are drawn from the council's purchases over the past two years. It is interesting to see how "our" money is being spent on Frank Auerbach, on Richard Wentworth's notorious bucket and on Bruce McLean's wonderfully titled "Bingo, Bingo, Bingo, Bingo" among others. Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington, Co Durham (0325 483271). Opens Wed, until Feb 3, Mon-Sat 10am-8pm.

Selected

LANDSCAPE, MEMORY AND DESIRE: Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6277). Until Jan 20, daily 10am-6pm (Closed Jan 21).
Works by six painters all schooled in abstraction who have since moved on to more natural expressionism, with landscape as a connecting theme.

THE ART OF THE ARCHITECT: Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Strand Place, London W1 (580 5533). From Wed until Jan 27, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.
Fascinating exhibition from the institute's collections. It ranges from designs by the great Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio to Inigo Jones's self-portrait. There is also a selection of models, books and manuscripts.

AESOP'S FABLES: Portal Gallery, 16a Grafton Street, London W1 (493 0706). Until Fri, Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm. (Closed Jan 1).
Mixed exhibition of gallery artists illustrating the fables: a great variety of styles, some amusing interpretations and one small, beautifully framed painting by Barry Castle which seems to capture Aesop's enduring insight into human nature.

CONCERTS

WIGMORE MASTERS
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141).
As part of the Wigmore Master Concerts series the Chingirian Quartet plays Haydn's Quartet Op 76 No 4 "Sunrise", Beethoven's Op 59 No 2, and Jonathan Williams joins in for Mozart's Horn Quintet K 407.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/CLEOBURY
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8786, credit cards 638 8891).
Nicholas Cleobury conducts the RPO in Mendelssohn's Overture *Fingal's Cave*, Mozart's *Elie Kline* *Nachtmusik*, Beethoven's Symphony No 6 "Pastoral", and Robert Cohen solos in Elgar's Cello Concerto.

COLE/NORTH
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall

Anna May Wong by Paul Tanqueray, an exhibition of whose work opens at the Photographers' Gallery on Wednesday. Tanqueray's portraits of film stars and those swept up in London's social whirl during the 1930s capture the easy and naive innocence of the period when art deco was all the rage. Like Cecil Beaton, Tanqueray would unashamedly use glittering materials in his backdrops to reflect light and create visually seductive images. This, coupled with occasional use of a soft-focus lens, gave rise to the almost iconographic photographs which

lent glamour to a celebrity's public face. Contrived and artificial, the photographs are as removed from reality as one can imagine. Even so they have a charm of their own which can not all be attributed to nostalgia.

Michael Young
Forty of Paul Tanqueray's photographs can be seen at the Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 6 Great Newport Street, London WC2. Wed until Mar 1. Tues-Sat 11am-7pm. All prints are for sale at £75 each.

On the lute, harpsichord and lute-harpsichord, Maggie Cole and Nigel North play Bach's Suites in B flat and G minor, Partita in D, Trio Sonata in F.

VIENNESE NIGHTS
Mon, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Besides Johann Strauss I pieces such as *William Tell Galop*, and Johann Strauss II items like *Thunder and Lightning Polka*, the LSO under John Goedgeaers interprets such rarities as Ziehrer's *Russian Polka-Mazurka*, Josef Strauss's *Feuerfast Polka* and Eduard Strauss's *Feste Gailster* Waltz. There is a repeat performance on January 1 at the same time.

MONTEVERDI/SCHUTZ
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The King's Consort directed by Robert King, offers Monteverdi's *Christmas Vespers* (1641) and

Schütz's *Christmas Story* (1664), with cornetts, sackbuts, and chitarrone.

MARSHAM/NETTLE
Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Richard Marsham and David Nettle sandwich the world premiere of Robert Walker's *Pasacaglia* between the original two-piano version of Holst's *The Planets* and Grainger's *Fantasy on Gershwin's Porgy and Bess*.

WHITEAR/HAMBURGER
Thurs, 1.15pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061).
Sheldene Whittear, mezzo soprano, sings Gurley's *Sleep*, Quilter's *Love's Philosophy*, Rautavaara's *Shakespeare Sonnets*, Rossini's *La Promessa*, and Haydn's *Die Landlust*.

PETERBOROUGH STRINGS
Thurs, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Besides giving the world premiere

of Christopher Brown's *Into the Sun*, the Peterborough String Orchestra play Mozart's *Divertimento K. 138*, Barber's *Adagio*, Stravinsky's *Concerto in D*.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/FREEMAN
Fri, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Paul Freeman conducts the LPO in Verdi's *Overture La Forza del Destino* and Beethoven's Symphony No 5 while Maximiliano Damerini solos in Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1.

Dance: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Concerts: Max Harrison; Galleries: Prudence Himes; Theatre: Anthony Masters; Films: Geoff Brown

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TEMPUS

Japan gains on Wall Street

Some of the world's fringe stock market enjoyed a frolicsome time during 1984. The tiny Mexico market, for example, put on some 77 per cent, partly on debt rescheduling hopes, and thereby completed a second year of recovery.

According to data prepared by Symon Bradford of Wood Mackenzie, the Madrid market, much fancied for its improving corporate profits trend and impending EEC membership, improved by nearly 57 per cent.

But the world's leading stock markets turned in some sprightly running London and Tokyo performed well, while European markets, like Germany, Italy, Belgium and France, were firm.

Arguably, London fund managers enjoyed a highly quixotic experience. British equities put on about 30 per cent, but this improvement is dwarfed by some of the gains which might have been enjoyed in other markets, when translated back into sterling.

Such has been the scale of sterling's devaluation that Hong Kong's rise of 40 per cent stretches, in pound terms, to a 73 per cent improvement. Tokyo gains, in the same basis, were 43 per cent.

Sadly, however, the cream of these gains may have been missed. British institutions spent most of 1984 building up their domestic liquid resources, ahead of the British Telecom flotation.

In contrast with these overall

gains, Wall Street stands out as a dull player indeed. American equities, as measured by the Standard and Poor's Composite Index, put on just 6 per cent, leaving the world's leading stock market way down in the relegation zone.

Analysts have been quick to identify Wall Street's underperformance as the stock market story of the year. They are confident that they understand why.

Although the US has been running a wildly expansionary fiscal policy, which ought in theory to have boosted equities, such is the weakness of the US corporate sector, when combined with the strong dollar, that the Japanese companies may have reaped most of the rewards from the Reagan Federal deficit this is why Tokyo has been so buoyant.

Dr Richard Coghlan of the Financial Economist puts the point succinctly. For the United States to enjoy real growth of 4 per cent, it needs to grow at twice that rate, since the trade deficit is now worth about 4 per cent of GNP.

Japanese economic data confirms the picture. In October, Japan's exports improved by more than 18 per cent to \$14 billion (£12 billion), while exports to the United States jumped by more than 37 per cent.

It would be unwise, however, to assume that the continued erosion by Japanese companies of United States domestic markets will be

allowed to continue indefinitely. According to one scenario, American policy makers will be preoccupied, for a number of reasons in 1985, with the effort to reduce the dollar's present over-valuation.

This would have the effect, in theory, of scaling down the appeal of foreign goods, while boosting at the same time, the United States corporate sector's export performance.

Sterling's continued devaluation has helped boost exports, and pushed the stock market to new highs. Hence, 1985 could see a resurgence in the Wall Street bull market.

But the policy mix which pushes the dollar down while supporting the bond market, will be hard to find. Meanwhile, an analysis of sector trends in world markets suggests that the present recovery in demand, may be fairly shallow.

In the third quarter of 1984, the bottom five sectors in world terms, textiles; steel; construction; shipping; and gold mines.

The marked underperformance of the Australian market, with its exposure to basic raw material demand, conveys a similar message. Hence any move by the United States to revive the momentum of world demand, may simply be too late and peter out.

On the assumption that Tokyo may have benefited most from the Reagan fiscal profligacy, it may be wise to expect an early sign from Japanese markets.

What will 1985 bring on the personal finance front? There is no doubt that pensions will remain a controversial issue in the coming months with the Government committed to introducing some form of portability, giving members of occupational schemes the right to take a lump sum transfer value from their former employer's pension scheme to reinvest in either the new employer's scheme, or a personal pension plan.

Against this, the Chancellor has failed to scotch repeated rumours that he intends to cut tax concessions on pension provisions and early 1985 is likely to see a flood of early retirements before Budget day on March 19. The most likely target for any cut in pension tax concessions is the tax-free lump sum which can be taken at retirement.

Child benefits is also vulnerable with rumours of it becoming taxable in the Budget. This is not unreasonable provided the money saved is used to increase child benefit and particularly the supplement available to single parents.

These families would not be affected by tax on child benefit, but would find their situation improved enormously by an increase to a figure which represented the real cost of keeping a child.

Wild speculation concerns

a possible cut in the tax concessions available to parents and grandparents who maintain a child through a deed of covenant. This would hit parents with children at university who are already under pressure because of the increase in the parental contribution scales, and the abolition of the statutory minimum student grant of £205 a year.

However, tax relief on deeds of covenant could be costing the Exchequer as much as £1,000 million a year so it is an obvious focus of attention for a cost-cutting Chancellor.

Mrs Thatcher has gone on record as being unwilling to see any reduction in mortgage interest relief, although she might approve a restructuring

of the mortgage interest relief which would reduce the relief to basic rate only while raising the ceiling, now £30,000.

On investment, the Government in conjunction with the financial institutions will continue to plough on towards some form of investor protection, although there seems little hope that it will incorporate the vital provision - compensation.

Without a bonding scheme, similar to that operated by travel agents, or insurance, the proposed legislation will do little, or nothing to ease the situation of the small investor who loses his life savings in the collapse of an investment firm.

The Chancellor has shown himself unwilling to rethink the taxation system. So it is almost certain that in 1985 it will continue to pay to live with your partner rather than marry.

The tax advantages of remaining single are enormous. Wives will continue to complain about the inequity of having their investment income taxed as though it were their husbands' income. Husbands will continue to complain at having to pay tax on income they do not receive.

Television licence fees will go up, although not by as much as the BBC would like. We already know that bus and tube fares are to be increased and it seems likely that British Rail will put up its fares, too.

The only bright spot on the

horizon is the building societies which will continue to be flush with funds, making mortgage money freely available - and not just for buying houses.

Next year will see an increasing number of societies prepared to lend (without tax relief) for the purchase of cars and household goods.

We have also asked some of the experts what they see in their crystal ball for 1985. Here is what they have to say.

Peter Edwards

Peter Edwards: "No sure fire winners"

Derek Fellows: "Two main pensions issues"

Derek Fellows

Mary Blair

Fidelity Unit Trusts

Income driven investment

Crystal ball

Income driven investment

Income driven investment

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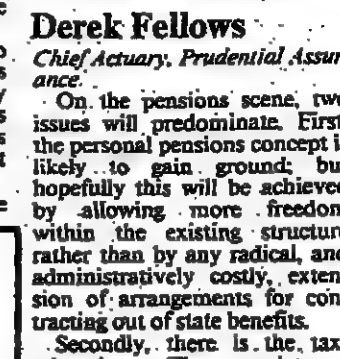
Few bright spots on personal



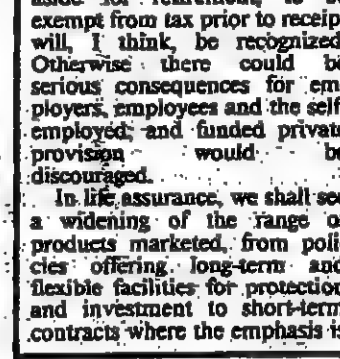
Peter Edwards: "No sure fire winners"



Derek Fellows: "Two main pensions issues"



Mary Blair



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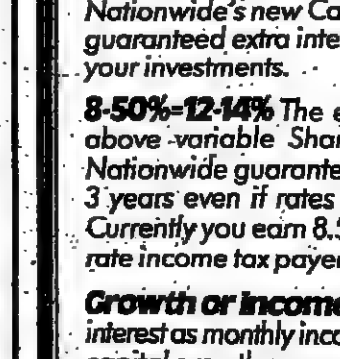
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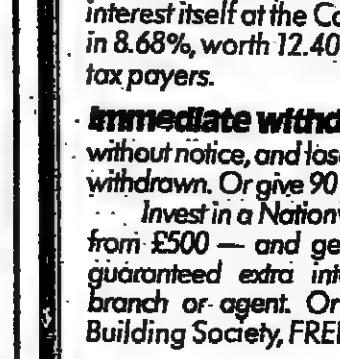
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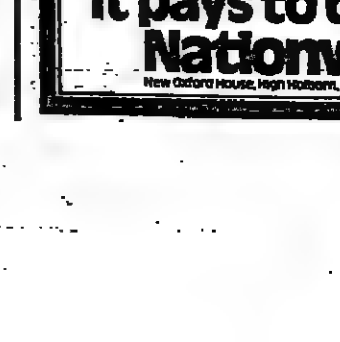
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Exchange market costly for Gould

By Stuart Jones

Bobby Gould yesterday became the eleventh managerial casualty of the season when he was dismissed by Coventry City. Don Mackay, formerly in charge of Dundee and an insurance salesman before being appointed as his assistant only in October, is to take over until the end of the season.

Gould, aged 39, left Bristol Rovers to become Dave Sexton's successor 18 months ago. He immediately and successfully transformed the side and, after completing an astonishing 42 victories over Liverpool last December, Coventry lay fourth in the first division. But, their fall was to be even more dramatic than their rise.

Lack of consistency was the problem, not so much of results (although they usually lost) as of selection. Gould, who played 105 times in his 16-year career, proved to be even more active in the transfer market. He was involved in a no fewer than 45 deals.

When he arrived most of the Coventry players were nearing the end of their contract and the club, being down into the lower division, been looking for promising and inexpensive material. But such was the rapid movement in and out of Highbury Road that the main gates began to swing doors.

Players were exchanged by the bewildering speed and, not surprisingly, the team remained unbeaten. Even though he recently bought more recognized if ageing talent, Regis and Barnes, the team's forwards remained steady and John P. Coventry's chairman, who will be Gould's three-year contract, is to be Coventry's finished nineteenth. This season, two points above the line, and are now 21st, two below it. As the season shows, they have won all their 42 League games during which their defensive has been by far the worst.

Nor are they likely to come on an optimistic note. Crystal Palace, United, their visitors to Highbury, away at Tottenham Hotspur, are leaders, on Boxing Day should be seeking their third successive main Highfield Road. Before the season, Gould helped Mackay in looks the side showing two changes remains the which lost at Luton.

Mackay, aged 44, all equity than 500 games in goal, United and acted as a preoccupied Southend United and high before gaining manager the United once in Denmark. After Year we heard said a player, Reagan to wishes, he resigned. Inauguration day that Coventry before years of economics. When their economic

markets. We can expect export of capital. We could see in the Yeu. Appropriate profits increased by 12

horizon

er cent and the strength of the market has not been shaken by the miners' strike or the British Telecom flotation.

In summary for 1985 the patient man would choose America, the cautious Britain. Anyone with a gambling instinct might risk a small investment in Hong Kong.

Mark Daniels

Equitable Life
I predict that in 1985 people will want to secure what they regard as suitable life insurance protection so that in the event of death their dependants are looked after.

I further predict that people who want a decent standard of living in retirement, and in particular those who see merit in security of income without depending on capital assets will in 1985, be interested in pension planning.

Peter Higgs
Prolific Unit Trusts
We are optimistic about the prospects for world markets, despite the evident slow down in the US economy. Inflation is generally under control and there are good prospects for lower US interest rates.

In our view the US market offers the greatest potential. Although we are uncertain about the timing, when the rise comes it could be very sharp.

Wall Street has been strongly outperformed by both Tokyo and London during 1984 and it is most unlikely that this will be repeated in 1985. The US market is historically very cheap, but, before it gets going, it really needs a clearer indication that the budget deficit is going to be tackled and that interest rates are going to fall.

Conversely the dollar looks overvalued against most of the leading currencies and we believe that US unit trusts should at least partially be hedged against future dollar weakness.

Japan and Britain probably offer less downside risk, but the US has the greatest upside potential. Recommendations: Prolific North American and Prolific Technology.

Alan Cumming
Chief General Manager, Woolwich Building Society
This year has seen some rather extravagant competition on interest rates between building societies and I hope that 1985 will see a restoration of order to what, at times, has become a rather disorderly market. A state of disarray of interest rates was a not surprising result of the break-up of

the Building Societies' Association's system of recommended interest rates. But I hope that things will now settle down. A state of disorder cannot be beneficial to consumers in general. At the Woolwich we believe we are making a big contribution to stability in the industry by taking a lead with our flat rate mortgage pricing policy and by seeking to

of suffering from structural deterioration. People in this position are now eligible to apply to the local authority for assistance with repairs. The authority can then decide whether to help through a "reinstatement" grant or simply by repurchasing the property. The purchase price is only available in the case of flats. In giving the grant to homeowners, the authority must specify exactly what is needed to reinstate the property and the cost of the work.

The legislation could affect a large number of people. So far no fewer than 22 types of prefabricated concrete dwellings in England and Wales and 12 in Scotland have been designated. It is not yet clear, however, what the total cost of repairs is likely to be.

Richard Thomson

Which Unit Trust turned your £1,000 to £3,594 in the last three years?

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All figures quoted are from Money Management, December 1984.

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FAMILY MONEY

New disability allowance gives rise to confusion

The end of last month saw the last advent of a new disability benefit — the Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA).

The Department of Health and Social Security is issuing advertisements for its explanatory leaflets providing the public with a full guide to the new allowance.

But the leaflet leaves all but the initiated few pretty confused about eligibility for SDA and the rules which cover award of the allowance. Consequently, the Spastics Society, the Disability Alliance, and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) have jointly produced an alternative leaflet which, they believe, gives a much simpler and clearer guide (claim forms, however, are only available in the DHSS leaflet).

What is SDA? The allowance was introduced in the Health and Social Security Act 1984 and, though initially promoted as an attempt to remove the iniquitous "household duties" test for the purposes of the non-contributory invalidity pension for (housewives) has become part of the Government's cost-cutting measures.

Before the new legislation, the NCIP was payable to those who, as a result of long-term sickness or disability, were incapable of work for which an employer would pay.

Inequality has always been a hallmark of the social security system but in 1979 an EEC directive stipulated that by January 1985, all member states had to equalize their social security arrangements. Faced with the prospect of challenges being raised in the European Courts, the Government had to come up with a viable alternative to the household duties

Qualifying Benefits
1 Attendance or mobility allowance.
2 War pensioners mobility supplement.
3 If you have an invalid bicycle, DHSS car, or private users car allowance.
4 If you are registered with your local authority as blind or partially sighted.
5 If you have already been assessed as fit for work for the purposes of industrial injuries benefit or for a war disablement pension.
6 If you have received a vaccine damage payment.

test. Rather than simply abolishing the test, the Government instead abolished NCIP for everybody.

The result is that all prospective claimants now have to satisfy a dual test: first, that they are incapable of work for which an employer would pay, and secondly, that they achieve an assessment of 80 per cent loss of faculty, or severity of disablement — in most cases.

However, there are exceptions to the rule. First, if you already qualify for NCIP or the housewives equivalent (HNCIP) you will automatically be transferred to SDA.

Secondly, for those aged below 20, you need only show that you are incapable of work. For those still at school or in further education, you have to satisfy the following:

If you are 16, 17 or 18 and still at school/in further education, you can undergo a course of instruction and claim SDA, providing the course does not exceed 21 hours tutor-contact time a week.

If in the above case, the tutor-contact time exceeds 21 hours, this will still be acceptable providing the extra hours have been arranged specifically because of your disability — so extra braille classes would not count.

Otherwise, qualifying for SDA rests on the dual tests of

registering an incapacity for work and an assessed loss of faculty of 80 per cent. Or does it?

It has been agreed that the DHSS doctors will be unable to cope with the flood of assessment needs generated by new SDA claims. So for the purposes of this new allowance, certain benefits have been earmarked as "passports" to the allowance.

In other words, if you are incapable of work and receive any of the benefits listed in the table you will be deemed to be 80 per cent disabled and, therefore, entitled to SDA.

If none of the above applies to you, take heart. Because the DHSS is operating assessments along the same lines as for industrial injuries, if you receive an assessment of 75 per cent plus, this will be rounded up to 80 per cent.

For a sum of £20.45 a week, at the time of writing, it all sounds like too much trouble. Nevertheless, an "as of right" income maintenance benefit, is always preferable to a means-tested benefit and as many people as possible should be encouraged to apply — despite the discouraging terms of the DHSS leaflet.

The three organizations listed below have produced a very useful leaflet and, though it will be necessary for claimants to obtain the DHSS equivalent — largely because it incorporates the claim form — the alternative leaflet will prove invaluable to anyone filling in, and trying to understand the DHSS form.

Stamped addressed envelopes to: The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ; The Disability Alliance, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2; and RADAR 25 Mortimer Street, London W1.

Linda Avery

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Figures as at December 1984. Source: The Financial Times.

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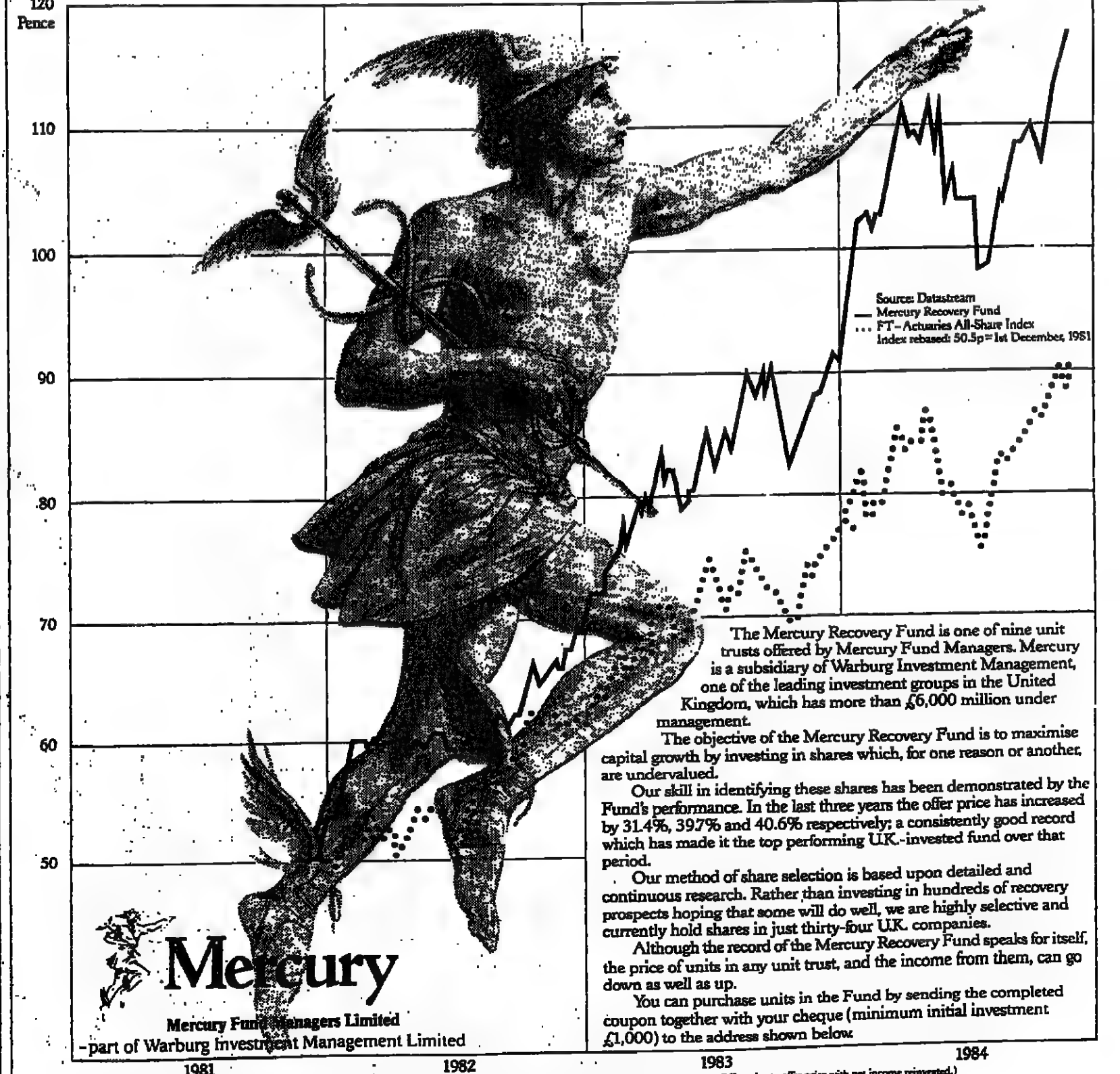
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Units may be purchased or sold back at offer and bid prices calculated daily. Prices will be published daily in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph but without responsibility for any errors in publication or for non-publication.
Covering notes will be issued within two days of receipt of applications. Units can be redeemed at any time and payment will normally be made within seven days of receipt of the redemption certificate(s).
Management Charges: an initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units. The annual management charge is 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund, which is charged initially against income and is taken into charge in 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund, which is charged initially against income and is taken into charge to increase that charge to a maximum of 1% (plus VAT). The Managers are also entitled to a rounding adjustment included in the bid and offer prices of up to 1% or 1.25p, whichever is the less.

Audited annual accounts will be sent to unitholders and a report on the progress of the Fund, together with a list of current holdings, will be sent to unitholders twice a year.
Income, net of basic rate tax, is distributed to unitholders half-yearly on 15th June and 15th December.
The Managers also offer accumulation units.
Valid on the portfolio as at 30th November 1984 the estimated gross current yield was 4.48% per annum.
However, the level of yield is not a primary consideration and may often fall below this figure.
Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request.
The Managers are Mercury Fund Managers Limited, a subsidiary of Warburg Investment Management. The Trustee is Williams & Glyn's Bank plc. The Fund is a Limited and a member of the Unit Trust Association. The Trustee is Williams & Glyn's Bank plc. The Fund is a UK Authorised Unit Trust and a "wider-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

In Mercury Fund Managers Limited, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS.
Telephone: 01-280 2800. (Registered Office: registered in England, No. 1102517)
I/We wish to purchase distribution/accumulation units in Mercury Recovery Fund to the value of £ (minimum initial investment £1,000) at the offer price ruling on receipt of my/our application.
A cheque made payable to Mercury Fund Managers Limited is enclosed.
I am/We are over 18 years of age.
Please tick this box for further details about Mercury Recovery Fund.
Please tick this box for information about the other Mercury funds.

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) _____ (PLEASE CAPITALISE)
Forenames in full _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
(Payments and correspondence will be sent to this address unless you specify otherwise.)
Signature _____ Date _____
(In the case of joint applications, all must sign on a separate sheet of paper.)
This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

FAMILY MONEY

SURVEY

Investment trusts 'lag behind'

Investment trusts proved a poor investment last year, according to a survey by Wood, Mackenzie, the Edinburgh stockbroking firm.

They lagged well behind other British equities through the previous year they outperformed the FT Actuaries all share index handsomely.

Wood, Mackenzie attributes this mainly to weakness on Wall Street, especially among smaller companies, and to what proved to be premature currency hedging against a dollar fall.

However, there were some notable exceptions, both among the individual trusts and the management groups.

Ten trusts produced a price total return more than ten points better than the FT All share index over the 12-month period to the end of November. Two trusts from the Baillie Gifford stable, Winterbottom Energy and Baillie Gifford Japan, produced total returns in excess of 30 per cent.

These funds, with Mid Wynd International in fifth place, and Scottish Mortgage in twelfth place, helped the Edinburgh-based Baillie Gifford to emerge as the top group in price total return over the 12-month period.

Of the largest fund management groups in the survey, the wooden spoon went to another Edinburgh group, Ivory & Sims, which was hit particularly hard by weakness in American markets.

Investment trusts performance in year to November 30

	Price total return 12 months
Winterbottom Energy	164.8
Baillie Gifford Japan	155.4
F&G Euroinvest	144.3
TR Pacific Basin	142.5
Mid Wynd International	141.9
Outright	141.7
TR City of London	136.9
New Tokyo	136.8
Keystone	135.7
Drayton Far Eastern	135.2
Fleming Japanese	134.9
Scottish Mortgage	134.7
London & St Lawrence	134.1
Lake View	133.8
Shires	133.5
General Consolidated	133.5
Murray Income	133.4
Lowland	132.9
Scottish Cities	132.7

Jeremy Warner

Sickbed payments

A new company has entered the competitive health insurance market. Personal Assurance plans to open for business next month when it has received government authorisation.

The company will offer fixed-benefit payments from a choice of two schemes. The Personal Hospital Plan will pay up to a maximum of £900 a month. This covers claims involving a visit or stay in hospital.

The Personal Sickness Plan, with a similar level of cover, pays out for absence from work due to illness. It is aimed at self-employed and hourly-paid workers who are not normally eligible for sick pay.

Personal Assurance, with £1 million capital, is based at Milton Keynes. Its backers include Refuge Assurance, GT Management and County Bank Development Capital. The director, Mr Christopher Johnson, is a former managing director of Multiple Brokerage.

Telephone tips

Unit trust investors who wish to hear investment opinions straight from the horse's mouth need only reach for the telephone and dial Britannia, the unit trust management group. The company's Viewpoint telephone service gives the investor a three-minute recording of how Britannia sees the outlook for world

stock markets in the new year. The service was set up in January 1983. Since then it has received about 60,000 calls. The Viewpoint number is 01-341 5556.

Noble prospect

The Platinum noble is to be the first coin to carry the Queen's new effigy next year. The coin, launched just over a year ago, weighs one ounce and its value is directly linked to the market price of platinum, now standing at about \$360 per ounce.

The 1985 noble is available from Ayrton Metals, 30 Ely Place, London EC1N 6RT.

New unit trust

Granville Investment Management has entered the unit trust market with its Granville Capital Unit Trust. The main aim of the trust is to provide long-term capital growth with some income element. It will be invested principally in British companies with a proven track record. It may also, however, invest overseas from time to time or in fixed interest investments. The main foreign markets are likely to be the US and Japan.

Although Granville is known for its participation in the over-the-counter



Mix of investments

Equity & Law is introducing a composite fund from the beginning of the new year to help clients achieve more readily the company's recommended discretionary mix of investments. The company already offers a mixed fund and a sector fund, but these are for clients who wish to make their own decisions about which sectors to invest in.

Student offer

Towry Law is introducing the Student Bond, which takes advantage of the new tax position of friendly society tax exempt schemes since the Budget. The bond is based on the Family Assurance Society's Family Bond. Before the budget, tax-exempt schemes were restricted to married people or those with dependants. Now anyone aged over 18 can have one.

The maximum investment allowed is £2,000 per month, or £100 a year, to get the full tax-free return. But the scheme can best be funded by a deed of covenant, costing a parent only £70 to provide an annual gift of £100.

Students have to pay the £70 membership fee to join the friendly society, but as an introductory offer, Towry Law will pay the first month's

£2.05 subscription. As an alternative, students are offered a 10 per cent off the first year's premium.

Bonus year

Clifford Medical is celebrating high returns from the investment markets this year by giving holders of its with-profit policy that becomes a claim on death or maturity in 1985 a bonus at the rate of £4.90 per cent per annum. It is also giving a special bonus of 10 per cent of bonuses previously declared up to the end of this year.

But the company also states that the bonuses are being given in anticipation of the next budget - presumably more evidence that the insurance industry believes the Chancellor will introduce some form of non-retrospective tax on pensions.

Flexible policy

National Mutual Life Association of Australasia has launched a new unit-linked policy, Flexidom, allowing the policyholder to adjust the degree of saving and protection in his policy.

The plan marks the company's entry into the unit-linked market, but is also, according to the general manager, Dr John Leaper, "the first stage in an ambitious programme of expansion. He said: "This extremely versatile policy is

the first of what we plan to be a competitive and comprehensive range of unit-linked products."

The plan is linked to six funds: fixed interest, UK equities, property, international, managed and guaranteed deposits. The policy includes most of the unit-linked-linked whole of life features, including the waiving of premium in the event of disability and double the sum assured payable in the event of accidental death. The plan can also be written on a joint life basis if required.

Call for ombudsman

Where do you complain if you are unhappy with the way you have been treated by your pension fund? The answer is - at the moment - nowhere. The Consumers' Association is not at all happy with the situation and is recommending the setting up of a pension ombudsman.

The ombudsman would act as arbiter in pension disputes and would operate like the highly successful Insurance Ombudsman who has powers to make his judgement binding on the insurance company, while leaving the individual free to go to court if he or she is not satisfied with his decision.

But why stop there - what about a banking ombudsman?

MOVING JOBS

Executives' wives revolt

The upwardly mobile executive in many industries must have a family equally willing to move around the country at the dictates of his or her career.

A survey of executive relocations by Pickfords Removals shows, however, that managers are becoming less willing to move because of their spouse's career.

Interest-free bridging finance is generally offered, either directly from the company or employees are left to arrange a loan from the company through their banks with interest charges reimbursed by the company.

Children's education also puts a brake on mobility with managers being particularly tied down at A and A level examination stages. Parents are unwilling to move from an area with a high standard of education to one with a reputation for poor schools.

One couple in the survey decided to send their children away to a private school to escape this problem.

Companies may pick up all the bills associated with moving, but the survey concludes that no more how attractive the financial incentives, the decision to move depends on a series of personal trade offs including the spouse's career, children's education and the quality of life in the different locations.

Most companies pay a disturbance allowance, usually between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of salary. But some pay a fixed amount of between £500 and £1,500. This is supposed to cover the cost of fitting out the new house. Sometimes special extras, such as the cost of school uniforms, are added for families with children.

None of the companies surveyed adopted the Civil Service practice of giving an interest-free loan based on a percentage of salary when there is a gap between the funds from the house sale, plus a maximum mortgage, and the price of an equivalent new house.

One retail chain offers executives the use of agents to handle the legal side of buying and selling the houses, find the best mortgage available, and oversee the removal, any storage and insurance.

When executives are moved to the South East, there is usually an allowance for the higher cost of housing. A recent survey by the Building Societies Association showed that the average price of a house in the South East is 47 per cent higher than in the West Midlands and 55 per cent higher than in the North West.

The usual method of spanning the gap is a short-term salary hike which is phased out over three or four years or an irredeemable loan only repayable if the executive leaves the company within three years.

The survey avoided average figures for moving cost because each case is different and personnel managers often deal with employees on a "what-seemed-fair" basis rather than by a strict code of rules. Companies with generous allowances for disturbance often have tightly drawn rules on bridging finance.

Genuine legal and removal costs are tax free; only payments which appear to go beyond the real cost of moving would be questioned by the taxman.

Vivien Goldsmith

EEC blow for British car buyers on the Continent

NEW CAR PRICES IN EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNITS (July 1984)

	Belgium	W Germany	France	UK
BMW 320i	9,632	10,494	11,015	12,417*
Fiat Panda 45	3,361	3,864	3,793	4,186*
Ford Escort XR3i	7,203	8,123	8,219	9,167*
Peugeot 305 GT	6,590	7,057	7,542	8,844*
Renault 5 GTI	4,638	5,017	5,083	6,113*
Volkswagen Golf GTI	7,944	8,725	8,750	10,641*

* 1 ECU 60p.
Source: BEUC.

countries where prices are artificially distorted by tax or price controls - and these are the countries where cars are the cheapest. This includes Denmark and Greece where tax on car sales is very high, and Belgium and Luxembourg where prices are controlled.

The trouble is that the rules appear to exclude foreigners to these countries from buying at the prevailing price or controlled prices any longer. They will almost certainly have to pay the lowest price available in the other EEC countries for an identical car. So if a car is £1,500 cheaper in Belgium than Britain, but its lowest price in

other EEC countries - say, West Germany, - is only £1,000 less, the British buyer in Belgium will have to pay the higher West German price.

That, at any rate, is one implication of the EEC decision. But the exact text of the rules has not yet been published so no one is sure what the exact wording will be or whether Belgium specifically will be included or excluded. And even when the text is made known, much will depend on how the commission implements the rules.

Once they have been imposed, probably on July 1 1985, the Consumers Association

Car makers gear up with energy-saving models

Carbuyers, by opting for one of the energy-saving models now being specifically marketed by Audi-Rover, BMW, Volkswagen and more notably Fiat, can gain considerable savings on fuel and often insurance costs. The company car driver who pays for his own petrol for private use can also benefit.

To put the energy-saving concept to the test, I recently used two Fiat Regatas, the standard 1300cc and the 1300cc ES model. The ES model incorporates just about every energy-saving feature now being

added to cars. It has aerodynamic aids on the front windows and boot, flush-fitting wheel trims, a five-speed gearbox, electronic engine aids to make sure the engine is always in perfect tune, an electronic gauge giving a constant read-out of consumption and a gear-change indicator telling the driver when it is best to change into higher gear. However, the main feature is the Fiat's Citymatic system which, when switched on, turns the engine off as the car comes to a halt at traffic lights or in heavy traffic.

The engine springs to life as soon as the clutch pedal is touched to re-engage first gear. An upgraded starter-motor and battery cope with the increased load and the electronic engine system means that a first-time start is never in doubt.

The two cars were used for the same period and for the same journeys, involving a warm-up run through suburban Hertfordshire, a 15-mile 70mph run down the M1 and then a crawl through rush-hour traffic via the North Circular to the City. The process was reversed each evening with the warming-up period coming in heavy traffic.

Luckily the weather during the two-week test period meant that both cars were subjected to dry, crisp and foggy, damp days and consumption was checked

by brimming the tanks from the same pump; not the most scientific method but the one used by the private motorist anxious to keep a close watch on petrol consumption.

The results were that the standard model achieved an average of 32.9 mpg, commendable for a comfortable four-door car with a large boot, and a lively performance from the 1300cc engine. The ES model achieved 41.1 mpg with no obvious performance penalty. If anything, the ES car, with its electronic engine aids, was smoother and, even though higher-geared, more flexible.

With petrol averaging 190p a gallon the saving over 12,000 miles in a year amounts to 75 gallons at a total cost of £142.50.

The ES model costs £490 more than the standard model, but a round-up of several London dealers made it clear that there should be no trouble in narrowing that gap by negotiation. With a six-year warranty on the bodywork the car would seem an ideal buy for the family motorist and if kept until the end of the warranty period the additional outlay could be recouped two-fold, and that is in the highly unlikely event of petrol prices remaining stable.

David Young

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - seven days notice required for withdrawals.
Barclays 6.5 per cent, Lloyds and NatWest 6.25 per cent, Midland 6 per cent, National Girobank 7 per cent, "Lloyds extra interest 9.5 per cent, NatWest 8.25 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 6 per cent, 3 months 8 per cent, 6 months 8.575 per cent. Rates quoted by National Westminster. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS			
Fund	Unit	APR	Telephone
Abacus Fund	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Abacus Inc.	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070
Barclays	0.25	0.25	01 638 8070

National Savings Bank
Ordinary account - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11.14 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, months notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 12.75 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 12 per cent from 2nd January - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3

months notice. Penalties in first year.
National Savings 2nd Index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.25 per cent per month up to October 1985 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 3.0 per cent supplement between October 1984 and October 1985 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Further 4 per cent after 10 years. Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in December 1979, £162 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Certificates
29th issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20, Maximum £100 a month. Return over five years 8.06 per cent - tax free.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 1 year Capital Life 7.25 per cent 2 years General Portfolio 8.25 per cent 3 years New Direction Finance 8.5 per cent 4 years General Portfolio 9.1 per cent 5 years New Direction Finance 8.75 per cent

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr Neath 10 per cent, 2 yrs Kent 10.5 per cent, 3 yrs Neath 10.5 per cent, 4-5 Bournemouth 10.5 per cent, 5-7 yrs Edinburgh 11 per cent, 8-10 yrs Northampton 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (638 6361 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also on Prestel no 24800.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 6.75 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA advised ordinary rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Int. Reserves 0481 23741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

	9.50 per cent
Starting US dollar	7.95 per cent
10 Mark	5.31 per cent
12 Mark	4.70 per cent
French Franc	4.70 per cent
Swiss Franc	9.50 per cent

November RPI: 341.9.

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Make the most of your opportunities by investing in the TR Income Monthly Fund now - and you can look forward to a regular income on the first working day of every month. A yield of 8.1% is now within your grasp and the opportunities for capital growth look good. In fact, a glance into the past shows £1,000 invested in '75 would have brought you £1,383 in gross income and would now be worth £2,329*. Financial prospects look bright.

TR GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY FUND



Technology opportunities and excellent management are highlighted. One of Europe's largest specialist investors in technology could make this area a success for you. With selected technology shares offering outstanding value - and a record to date of 12.4% growth in the 11 weeks since launch, the outlook for the TR Global Technology Fund looks favourable. For growth it could be a star performer. A prosperous New Year is within sight.

* Performance statistics and estimated current gross yield at 31.12.84. Increase in unit offer price to 31.12.84.

TR UNIT TRUSTS



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To: Touche Remnant Unit Trust Management Limited, Mermaid House, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. Telephone: 01-248 1280.

Please send me details of:
☐ TR Income Monthly Fund
☐ TR Global Technology Fund

Full Name
Address

Registered No. 782833. Registered address as above. Member of the Unit Trust Association. Not applicable to Eire.

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ESTABLISHED UNDER THE BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME
In the past many of the bright ideas of the British entrepreneur have either been developed abroad or left on one side due to the lack of suitable risk finance. The Beaumont Development Capital Fund hopes to help the developing companies whilst providing a rewarding investment for investors over the medium to long term. Investors should remember that investments in unquoted companies carry higher risks as well as the chances of higher rewards.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BEAUMONT DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUND
This advertisement is not an invitation to invest. For full details, without obligation, please complete and return the form below. The minimum investment is £2,000.
The closing date for the application list has been extended to Wednesday 16th January 1985

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
DAY TEL NO. _____
Return completed form to: Mrs S. Bentley, Burrage & Co. Ltd., 117 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 5AL. Tel No: 01-480 7216

DAILY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS' COMPETITION



In 1983 we entered the Daily Telegraph Unit Trust Managers' Competition for the first time with our TSB Pacific and Extra Income Unit Trusts. Not only were we outright winners, we increased our Trust's combined values by 46% over the year.

In 1984, despite the much more difficult market conditions, we are lying third with our TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust, having increased its value by 15%.

This combined two-year return was unsurpassed by any other entrant in the Competition.

To take advantage of the consistently good investment management policies which produce results like these, ask the operator for FREEPHONE TSB UNIT TRUSTS and get the details of our 1985 Competition entry. Or use the coupon below.

ACT NOW!
To: James Law, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, FREEPOST, Keene House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1BR. (No stamp required) Tel Andover 0264 62188. Please send me full details of your Daily Telegraph Unit Trust Manager's Competition entry for 1985.
Name _____
Address _____

مكتبة الأصيل

RACING

Warden holds the key to two of Ayr's top prizes

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Dick Warden, who is best known as Sheikh Mohammed's adviser on bloodstock, has a good chance of being in the limelight on his own account today at Ayr, where Karenmore and Jobroke appear to have an excellent opportunity of carrying his green, red and black racing colours to a popular double.

Karenmore should not be hard pressed to gain a third successive victory in the Tail-law Novices' Chase after an emphatic win at Newcastle on December 1 when he had Tim Small Miracle 18 lengths in arrears. Ninety minutes later his stable companion, Jobroke, will get his opportunity to win his fourth race off the reel this season in the Arxap 30 Handicap Hurdle.

Jobroke's original objective, at Wetherby on Thursday, fell victim to bad weather. It would be difficult to exaggerate the ease with which Jobroke won his last race. He is clearly a horse who is improving all the while, just the sort capable of defying a pesky.

Emo Forever, a travelling companion from Peter Easterby's Malton yard, could help to make this yet another day for their successful trainer to savour by winning the Laureston Novices' Hurdle at the expense of Boardmans Cornedale. However, I am inclined to doubt whether Cornedale, another member of the same team which caught that tough front-runner, Harry Hastings, in the Ladbrokes Novices Handicap Hurdle (qualifier).

Branton Park, who had his last race seemingly in his pocket until he fell at the last fence, has an excellent chance of retrieving those losses by winning the Gwentford Handicap Chase, despite carrying 11 lb 10 lb.

With John Spearing's horses in such fine fettle - the Alcester trainer saddled one winner at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day followed by a couple there 24 hours later - no one should be surprised if he is seen in the winners' enclosure again at Newbury today after the L'Oréal Handicap Hurdle, which I expect to be won by Ishkomann.

A recent novice two seasons ago when "Rhyme 'N Reason" lost his last season, which he went through without even managing to catch the judge's eye. As a result, the handicapper dropped

Course specialists

AYR
JOCKEYS A Brown 10 winners from 70 rides, 22.9%; P Chilton 16 from 75, 21.3%; R Barnard 9 from 42, 21.4%; J Gifford 8 from 35, 22.9%; S Wiggins 5 from 110 rides, 30.9%; G Richards 54 from 272, 19.9%; W A Stephenson 28 from 175, 15.1%.

NEWBURY
JOCKEYS J Fennell 51 winners from 208 rides, 24.5%; P Scudamore 34 from 174, 19.5%; H Davies 28 from 120, 15.8%; J Gifford 27 from 110, 24.5%; J Wiggins 28 from 205 rides, 28.4%; D Nicholson 20 from 143, 20.5%; F Wiggins 10 from 12, 83.3%.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON
JOCKEYS S Montague 14 winners from 55 rides, 25.4%; J Barker 8 from 55, 14.5%; C Travers 7 from 55, 12.7%; W Higgins 7 from 55, 12.7%; W Higgins 7 from 55, 12.7%.

BRANTON PARK
JOCKEYS S Montague 14 winners from 55 rides, 25.4%; J Barker 8 from 55, 14.5%; C Travers 7 from 55, 12.7%; W Higgins 7 from 55, 12.7%.

AYR

[Television: 1.20, 1.50, 2.20]
GOING: good to soft

12.50 TAIL-LAW NOVICES' CHASE (21,138: 2m) (8 runners)
1-12-011 KARENMORE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-015 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-017 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 THE SMALL MIRACLE (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

Ayr selections

1.20 Karenmore. 1.20 Harry Hastings. 1.50 Branton Park. 2.20 Jobroke. 2.50 The Divider. 3.20 Emo Forever. Michael Seely's selection: 3.20 Emo Forever.

1.20 LADBROKES NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER (22,131: 2m) (8)
1-12-011 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-015 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-017 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 HARRY HASTINGS (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

1.50 GLENTWOLF HANDICAP CHASE (22,385: 3m 3f 40yd) (6)
1-12-011 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-015 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-017 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 BRANTON PARK (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

2.20 ARXAP 30 HANDICAP HURDLE (22,401: 2m) (7)
1-12-011 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-015 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-017 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 ALLEN GLAZED (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

2.50 BENNAN NOVICES' CHASE (21,213: 2m 4f) (8)
1-12-011 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-015 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-017 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 CURRIE BURN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

3.20 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
1-12-011 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-017 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

3.50 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
1-12-011 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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4.00 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
1-12-011 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-018 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

4.30 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
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5.00 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
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5.30 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
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1-12-018 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

6.00 LAURISTON NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 4f) (7)
1-12-011 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-017 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 BOARDMAN'S CORNER (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15



Alan Jones, the country's tallest jockey, comes down to earth on Royal Riches at Fontwell (Photograph: Chris Cole)

First-class delivery from McGhin

By Michael Seely

A 36-year-old former postman delivered a 12-1 winner for Michael McGhin at Fontwell Park yesterday. Ray McGhin, who has spent all but two of his working years in racing, rode his first winner over jumps when driving Young Bucklers home a length in front of Media Boy in the first division of the Brighton Novices Hurdle.

McGhin works for Philip Mitchell, the trainer of yesterday's 6-4 on favourite, Diamonds High, who finished a half beaten fifth after colliding with Kerry's Court at the third flight from the start. At the final hurdle, Richard Rowe and Media Boy held a narrow advantage but the pair flattened the jump and were immediately overtaken by the winner.

"That was a tremendous thrill," the Durham-born jockey said afterwards. "I only took out a licence to ride over jumps this season and I love every moment of it. I ran over a cat on the way here from Epsom, but I didn't know whether it was a good omen or not."

McGhin was originally apprenticed to the late John Smead, senior, at Epsom at the age of 16. "That was in the days of Calu Mesquita and all those other good horses. But unfortunately I had a lot of weight problems in those days, and when the governor died I checked it in. I was in the Post Office for a couple of years."

However, McGhin's wife, Lynne, was given an old racehorse as a back. "One day I went up to see the jockey yearling sale and was kept and had a ride. That did it, and I knew

that I had to get back into the game again. I rode my first winner on the 12th of May on Blue Currier at Carlisle in the summer of 1982. The jockey now has his weight stabilized and has no difficulty in riding at 8st 2lb.

The sun shone all afternoon on a blissfully happy crowd, who shouted their heads off through the action-packed proceedings. The biggest round of applause was reserved for Gary Moore after the luckless jockey had finished last of the five finishers on North West behind Master Nibble in the Whitelaw Challenge Cup. North West must have clouted 15 of the 22 fences and the erratic nine-year-old's plucky partner deserved his hero's welcome home.

After Bash Street Kid had fallen at the sixteenth fence, the race became a three-cornered fight between Master Nibble, Rib Law and The Summer Master. Nibble appeared to be labouring a mile from home but took on a new lease of life turning for home. Allen Webb sent the 5-2 favourite into the lead at the second-last and the pair went clear to win by a length and a half.

Master Nibble is one of 22 horses trained at Chalfont St Giles by Clive Holmes. The trendily dressed trainer is certainly a versatile operator as he is not only a director of the Abbey Life Insurance group but also runs a beef herd at his home in Buckinghamshire.

The afternoon's "good thing", Joy Ride, duly obliged in the Salomon Sprint Hurdle. However, Steve Smith Exiles had to work his hardest before the 2-1 on favourite scrambled home only half a length ahead of Averon and John Francoise. Joy Ride was only coming in the lead at the final hurdle but then thought he had done enough.

"He's a marvelous horse and as kind as a Christian," Jeff King, the winning trainer said. "But he's dead and couldn't care less. He even tripped up on the road near my head but was on board. So now I ride him myself."

The trainer bought the four-year-old for 19,000 guineas out of Bruce Hobbs's stable at Doncaster. "I won't send Joy Ride to Cheltenham as there's so much luck involved at the big meeting. I'll probably keep him for a race at Liverpool, which is a much fairer track," King said.

The opening race of the afternoon, the Torrington Selling Handicap ended in early disaster for Alan Jones when Royal Riches charged the tape and unseated the tallest jockey in the country at the first fence. The race was won by Pat Conner on Pomposus Prince, but the pair had to fight their hardest for the first two fences. Francoise, the trainer, when Richard Rowe and Double Swing proved too strong for Petit Pain and John Francoise in the second division of the Brighton Novices' Hurdle. Fred Winter's recent Hereford winner appeared to be going the better when he moved up to challenge but Double Swing soon regained the upper hand to win by five lengths.

"I don't know whether he'll be good enough to run in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham eventually," Mr Smith said afterwards. "First of all, we'll bring him back here for a £5,000 race on February 4."

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NEWBURY

[Television: 1.0, 1.30, 2.0, 2.30]

GOING: soft
TOTTE: Double 1.30, 2.30, Treble 1.0, 2.0, 2.30.
12.30 ELIOT PARK NOVICES' CHASE (21,595: 3m) (8 runners)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-017 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

Newbury selections
12.30 Drumadown. 1.30 The Broomer. 1.30 Ishkomann. 2.0 Romany Nightshade. 2.30 GRENZ BRAMBLE (nap) 3.0 Ace of Spies.
By Michael Seely
1.30 ISHKOMANN (nap). 2.0 Romany Nightshade.

1.00 CHALLLOW HURDLE (Grade 2: £5,398: 2m 4f 120yd) (8)
1-12-011 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-014 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-015 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-017 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 CHURCH WARDEN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

1.30 L'OREAL HANDICAP HURDLE (24,838: 2m 100yd) (11)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

2.00 ELIOT PARK NOVICES' CHASE (21,595: 3m) (8 runners)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-017 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

2.30 WEYHILL HANDICAP CHASE (22,653: 3m) (8)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-017 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

3.00 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-013 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

3.30 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
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1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

4.00 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

4.30 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-018 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15

5.00 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-012 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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5.30 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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6.00 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (23,77: 2m 100yd) (20)
1-12-011 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
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1-12-015 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-016 DUNMADOWN (J) (C. Brown) Warden 11-11-15
1-12-

Minister implicated in death of Polish priest

Continued from page 1

Each time he was beaten, Piotrowski threatening after the first attempt, "I will strangle you with my bare hands if you don't keep quiet." In the forest attempt, Piotrowski beat the priest with a 20-in club wrapped in rags.

According to Pekala's testimony, the priest shouted out shortly before his death: "Help, help. Spare my life, you people."

A rope was put around his neck to restrain movement in the boat, and it was this, according to the prosecutor, which ultimately killed him. The kidnappers did not know this when they stopped in the forest near Wloclawek reservoir and a fierce discussion broke out over whether he should live or die.

The third kidnapper, former Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski, argued that the priest had been beaten enough to teach him a lesson. Piotrowski insisted: "No, it has to be the water."

Pekala says that at that moment, "I realized that the priest would have to die. It was no longer important at that stage whether the priest was alive or dead."

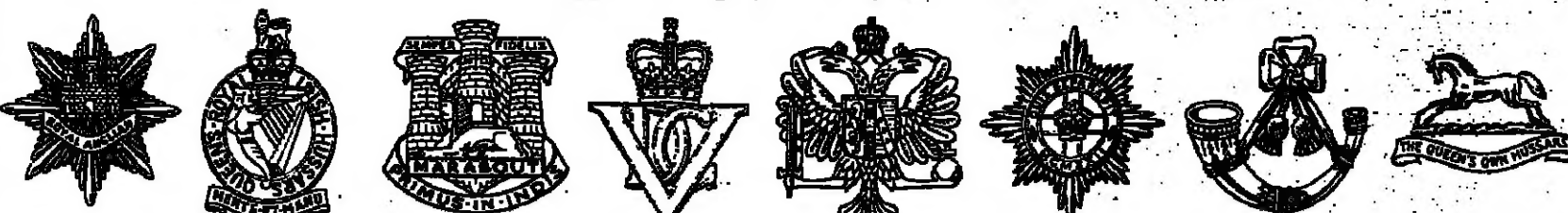
"I felt myself helpless. I stopped thinking. I wondered how it could have come to this. But I said to myself that I must continue to obey."

Pekala's defence case shifts much responsibility on to Piotrowski, and the strain was beginning to show yesterday on the former captain, much decorated for his services to the secret police. The onus will now be on him to prove that he received concrete orders from above and did not simply make up the existence of interest at high level to spur the other kidnappers.

Legal sources speculate that he may change the basis of his defence. Instead of staying silent, in the confidence that the Interior Minister and other sympathisers will look after him, he may now feel that it is in his interests to tell all.

The trial has been adjourned to January 2, when Pekala will continue his testimony.

300 years of glory, loyalty and service



Badges of the tercentenary regiments (from left): Royal Anglian Regiment, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, the Light Infantry and The Queen's Own Hussars.



Badges of The King's Regiment (left) and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A large part of the British Army will be celebrating its 300th anniversary next year.

Ten regiments and the band of the Grenadier Guards all reach their tercentenary next year. They all derive from the efforts of James II in 1685 to raise a standing army at the time of the rebellion by the Duke of Monmouth.

Between February 1685 and December that year he succeeded in more than doubling the strength of the Army from under 9,000 to nearly 20,000. It was one of the key phases in the development of the Army.

The regiments created at that time have since been subsumed within larger, modern regiments, but it is customary for regiments to date their lives from the birth of the oldest of their component parts.

All those that can claim descent from 1685 will mark the anniversary with much receiving and exercising of freedom of cities, receiving of new standards, church services, royal occasions and parades.

The regiments will come together for a pageant to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London on January 17.

Among the regiments celebrating next year will be the Royal Anglian Regi-

ment, which has three regiments formed in 1685 among the seven from which it is descended.

Another is the Light Infantry which, because of social service rendered by one of its forebears to King George IV, is to this day not required to drink the loyal toast, its loyalty being deemed to have been adequately demonstrated.

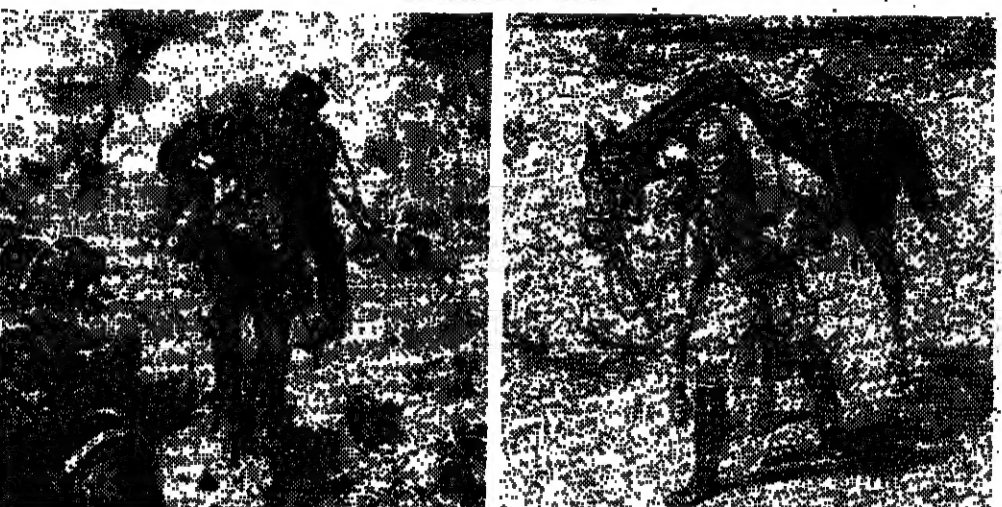
Another regiment celebrating its 300th anniversary is The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. It includes in its family tree the 4th Queen's Own Hussars, formed in 1685.

The other regiments marking their anniversary are the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Own Hussars, The King's Regiment, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Two other regiments which are joining in the pageant at the Royal Albert Hall because they include regiments formed in 1685, but which celebrated their tercentenary some years ago on the strength of their association with units formed even earlier, are The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.



1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards: Captain Nevill Smyth winning the VC at the Battle of Khartoum in 1898.



Corporal Philip Smith (left), Royal Anglians, and Lieutenant John Norwood, 5th Royal Inniskillings, winning their VCs by rescuing wounded comrades.

Letter from California

Cheap imports kill vintners' euphoria

A visit to our local wine shop illustrates the sad plight of the once euphoric California vintner. Top quality French champagnes are 30 to 40 per cent cheaper than the better California sparkling wines, and the shelves are filled not with select wines from the Napa and Sonoma valleys but with much cheaper imports from France and Italy.

The once-booming US wine industry is drowning in a sea of European imports. In California lately, there have been few roasts drunk as vintners and grape growers experience the worst slump in their history. The usually bustling wine regions of California provide some 90 per cent of wine to the nation.

These are heady days for the wine-consuming public, however, as they take advantage of the strong dollar, which has made foreign wines very cheap.

The wine boom has turned sour in California in more ways than just sales. There is also a huge surplus of grapes. It was not always so. In the 1970s it was celebrations every year as Americans discovered the delights of the grape and the wine industry began to accelerate. In the past decade, to keep abreast of the growing demand, grape growers boosted their acreage by 26 per cent, to more than 363,000 acres.

It seemed that new wineries were opening up every week, producing wines as good as, and even better than, their high-priced foreign rivals. In Napa alone there are more than 150 wineries.

But two years ago, as the dollar grew stronger, Americans discovered foreign wines. In 1982 the growth of US wine production stopped and growers anticipating a continued demand suddenly found they had tons of ripe grapes, but nowhere to send them.

In central California, where more than three-quarters of the state's grape crop is grown, it was disastrous. Seedless grapes which had sold for \$200 (£171) a ton in 1981 brought only \$50, and many farmers were driven to the brink of bankruptcy.

Ivor Davis

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see

Blackburn in the Fifties; and 25 years of post war design; Museum and Art Gallery, Museum St, Blackburn, 9.30 to 6.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,618

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